

*Hafa Adai!*

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

## Typhoon Maysak kills 5 in Chuuk

By GRACE GARCES BORDALLO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**H**AGATNA, Guam (AP)—Some homes on a western Pacific Ocean island have been destroyed by typhoon-force winds, which were expected to bear down on a neighboring island in the Federated States of Micronesia. An official with the Chuuk Emergency Coordinating Central Committee says four deaths have been reported. Some media are reporting at least five deaths in Chuuk State.

» **Many homes destroyed by typhoon**

See TYPHOON on Page 1

## More than 100 machines eyed for Saipan casino

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. plans to bring in more than a hundred gaming machines once the casino gaming regulations in the Commonwealth are finalized.

Don Hallmark, Best Sunshine International's director of slots, said the company is just waiting for the final

See MACHINES on Page 4

### RELATED NEWS

► Inos OKs 'emergency' casino regulations. PAGE 13



### PIT STOP IN PAGAN

Members of the USNS VADM K. R. Wheeler crew pose with inhabitants of Pagan after delivering food, medical supplies, and building materials to the island. Wheeler (T-AG 5001) visited the Northern Islands, including Pagan, on March 16-19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See story on Page 13

## M/V Luta to sail for Rota this week

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

M/V Luta, a retrofitted passenger and cargo vessel, will sail from its current port in Louisiana to Rota on Wednesday after its "christening" today.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig disclosed that

the Japanese-owned vessel will take its maiden voyage and will reach the CNMI "in about 30 days."

Atalig also confirmed that Lt. Ralph DLG. Torres and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) earlier flew to the U.S. mainland to attend the vessel's christening.

The christening will be held today, and the

ship will sail the day after, Atalig said.

A new ship is traditionally christened by breaking a bottle of champagne on the ship's hull. It is often conducted to ensure its safe travel and for good luck.

M/V Luta will have an impact on Rota, as it is expected to help the island's tourism and business sectors.

According to Atalig, one of the immediate

See ROTA on Page 4

### INSIDE



### NATION

A man storms into a medical office and shoots the mother of his five kids before killing himself.

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### ASIA

The world's oldest person dies nearly a month after her 117th birthday.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Who's who in music streaming: Tidal, Spotify, Pandora and so much more.

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## Local

# Company to push zipline application with HPO anew

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Adventure Tours will again push for their Marpi zipline project after the Historic Preservation Review board rejected their project out of concern for the "integrity" of the historical area.

The company aims to construct a launch tower west of Suicide Cliff that will serve three runs of four lines, each zooming down to Banzai Cliff, Wing Beach, and Kan Pacific.

Owner John Stewart could not be reached for comments yesterday. Project designer and consultant Richard Colt

declined to comment on Tuesday, but a company attorney confirmed yesterday that they "will be taking further action with HPO on their application for the project." He could not comment further.

According to HPO's findings on the project, copies of which were obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, the "question of integrity" in the area was the "central question" in their review of the zipline project.

The review board chose to accept these findings, which appear to stress the sentimental value of the site, in a 4 to 2 vote on Tuesday.

Citing the National Regis-

ter in their "seven aspects of integrity," HPO listed "location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association" as aspects they must maintain.

HPO said the question of integrity is answered by "whether or not the property retains the identity for which it was originally deemed significant."

If the property loses this identity, they are subject to lose their status as a National Historical Landmark or National Historic place, HPO found.

"When Marpi was recommended for the National Historic Register, emphasis was placed on its tragic history,"

HPO said. "It is a sacred place for U.S. and Japanese service members whose families visit it to commemorate the war dead. It is also a sacred place for Chamorro people who collect medicinal plants

within its boundaries," the findings state.

Citing the National Register, HPO also said Suicide Cliff is "an important place of pilgrimage and peace."

HPO said the zipline project

would "change the aesthetic character of the [NHL] for visitors" by injecting auditory and visual stimulus that "will alter the visitor's perception of the significance of the landmark" while they visit.

## 'Continue to protect the CNMI's environment'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is urging communities to continue to do their part in protecting the CNMI's environment.

During a ceremony proclaiming April as Environmental Awareness Month on Wednesday, Inos said everyone in the CNMI should do his or her part to protect the islands' natural resources.

Speaking in front of members of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Resources and supporters on Capital Hill, Inos said one of the measures that should be supported is the minimal use of plastic bags.

Plastic bags are one of the most common pollutants on the island and elsewhere.

"Let's support existing beautification programs and support this measure," Inos said, after signing the proclamation.

A legislation introduced by Rep. Vinson Sablan



JOEL PINAROC

Gov. Eloy S. Inos puts on a BECQ cap to show his support during the "Environmental Awareness Month" proclamation on Wednesday.

(Ind-Saipan) seeks to minimize the use of plastic bags, among others, to reduce wastes in the CNMI.

Inos, wearing a BECQ cap in a gesture to support Environmental Awareness Month, also said, "We must do our share to keep the CNMI clean."

"Individuals, families, visitors, businesses, and the government; we are all responsible to ensure that Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands remain clean with bountiful natural resources for our present and future generations." (Joel D. Pinaroc)

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Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to call Julie R. Inos at 664-4067 or 664-4070 or Ruth T. Sablan at 664-4076.



# Inos OKs 'emergency' casino regulations

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has signed the casino regulations that the Commonwealth Casino Commission earlier approved.

The signed document was hand-delivered by one of the governor's staff during a meeting of the casino commission on Wednesday.

Michael Ernest, the legal counsel of the casino commission, said that the regulations, signed on an emergency basis, will be good for 120 days.

He said the document will now be transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General for publication in the *Commonwealth Register*.

The lawyer earlier said the commission has determined that these regulations be adopted immediately, noting that the commission will again meet to promulgate the regulations, which will open a 30-day window for the general public to submit comments.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has unanimously voted to adopt draft regulations for Saipan's fledgling gaming industry.

The commission on Friday adopted "Resolution No. 2015-001" or the "Commonwealth Casino

Commission Rules and Regulations," by unanimous vote.

Edward Deleon Guerrero, the commission's executive director, said the regulations include provisions for the collection of fees, licensing of employees, and provisional licensing for vendors, among others.

A provision for junket operators is still pending, he said, and will be tackled after another round

of review by the commission.

The regulations have been subject to an "emergency adoption because of the government's urgent need for financial resources," the resolution states.

Deleon Guerrero added that the regulations have been fast-tracked to allow the Saipan casino licensee—Best Sunshine International, Ltd.—to hire and train employees and order gaming machines and

equipment for its planned temporary "live" training facility at the T Galleria in Garapan.

The resolution states that having no Commonwealth Casino Commission Rules and Regulations hinders the job market for Commonwealth job seekers and jeopardizes the Commonwealth's ability to collect urgently needed revenues from the casino industry.

Best Sunshine's temporary "live" facility is expected to open in June or July.

## 'Man passed himself off as another for over a decade'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The federal court has found that Virgilio R. Patubo, a Filipino who allegedly impersonated another person in applying for non-immigrant documents, eluded detection for over a decade while

living in plain sight on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the testimony and information submitted at the detention hearing showed that there is no condition or combination of conditions that will reasonably assure Patubo's

appearance in court.

Patubo entered the CNMI twice without being detected as a deported alien, the first time within months of his removal from the U.S. after serving his federal sentence of 42 months imprisonment, said Manglona

in an order on Tuesday.

The judge said Patubo was able to renew his passport with the Philippines government under his alias, Joseph Roque.

Manglona said the defendant also filed immigration documents with the U.S. government

three years in a row before being detected.

"Defendant has shown his ability to access immigration documents and come and go from the CNMI as he pleases," Manglona said.

The two-day detention

hearing was held last Thursday and Friday.

According to the indictment, Patubo impersonated a Joseph Mendiola Roque when applying for a CW-2 visa on Nov. 18, 2011. Patubo also allegedly passed himself off as Roque when applying for a humanitarian parole application on May 19, 2012, and on Feb. 2, 2013.

## CHCC still awaiting CMS arrival

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said they are still waiting for a team from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to visit the hospital.

Muña said the hospital has been prepared for the visit because Friday is the deadline for CMS to make a decision whether to terminate the hospital's condition of participation with Medicare or conduct a resurvey.

Other CHCC staff confirmed that there isn't a CMS team yet at the hospital, at least since yesterday.

Muña earlier noted that the hospital continues to work on correcting the shortcomings that CMS found in September 2014.

CHCC hospital administrator Jesse Tudela did confirm that the Commonwealth Health Center was visited by CMS Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment to resurvey

the laboratory.

He noted that there was nothing alarming and that the laboratory director is working on recommendations and suggestions that CMS CLIA gave. Tudela said he couldn't elaborate more on this due to confidentiality and CMS standards.

"So the official that came in last week was not for the hospital but only the laboratory. I myself prepared already the listing of staff for the CMS upon their visit. So they could come any time," he said.

Last year, CMS extended the hospital's condition of participation with Medicare up to April 3, 2015, with the plan of corrections to be submitted on Dec. 22, 2014.

Muna confirmed last week that their plan of corrections has been approved with some changes made to address their operating room area.

Muna said the CMS visit will be a validation survey to see if the plan of corrections is being followed.

## Mayor's office preps for Friday trek

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is busy cleaning up Mt. Tapochau for the annual pilgrimage up the mountain this Good Friday.

Mayor David M. Apatang mobilized his crew to clear debris and cut overgrown vegetation along the pathway.

"We started preparing last week and continue all the way until tomorrow. Still picking up debris," said Joann Aquino, field operations director.

Aquino said the road has already been cleared and is now passable for trekkers hiking up.

"We are doing bush cutting and plans to continue to pick up tomorrow. Everyday we have a total of five to seven staff because some are still assigned in other places and still picking up debris in Kagman from Tropical Storm Bavi, including Chalan Kanoa. Currently the other crew

is in San Antonio," Aquino said.

"These last past weeks is all debris and that is all we're doing. We did clear a fallen tree in Mt. Tapochau but the route going up is all overgrown vegetation so we cleared the parking area at the bottom and it is usable now. As of now we're still clearing all the overgrown vegetation and will continue tomorrow," she added.

In related news, Apatang continues with efforts to beautify and clean up Saipan villages.

Aquino said they still get a lot of calls everyday and majority of the requests are about debris removal attributed by the storm.

"We're trying to respond to as much request as we can regarding debris removal but we're short of manpower and some equipment but we are doing our best to make do with the resources available. So everyday we try to accommodate the request and the priority is the Mt. Tapochau trek," she said.

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# Insurance firm allegedly refuses to pay \$40K benefits

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A widow has sued an insurance company for allegedly refusing to pay her \$40,000 in benefits for the death of her husband, who died a month after she applied for her and her family's life insurance.

Marivic Tumulad, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is suing Individual Assurance Co. for breach of contract, breach of duty of good faith and fair dealing, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Tumulad is suing for unspecified damages.

*Saipan Tribune* contacted IAC yesterday, but a representative said he is not allowed to comment.

Fitzgerald stated in the complaint that Tumulad applied on Jan. 15, 2013, for dependent life benefits under the CNMI Group Life Insurance Program, underwritten by IAC, to cover herself, her husband, and her son.

Fitzgerald said IAC issued a written policy of insurance and promised to pay Tumulad \$40,000 upon the death of her husband.

As part of the "health statement of employee and dependent", Tumulad was asked if she or any of her dependents had ever been treated for or diagnosed as having "liver or kidney disease."

Fitzgerald said Tumulad truthfully answered this question by marking the box on the form denominated "NO" for

herself, her spouse, and her son.

Tumulad's husband, Arsenio, died on Feb. 21, 2013, and the cause was listed as hepatorenal syndrome.

Tumulad then filed a claim for dependent life benefits under the CNMI Group Life Insurance Program.

Fitzgerald said that, on April 23, 2013, IAC denied Tumulad's claim on the grounds that Arsenio had been diagnosed or treated for a liver disease at the time she answered the health statement in the negative.

IAC maintained that this was a false statement because Arsenio had been diagnosed and treated for a liver disease prior to Jan. 15, 2013.

Tumulad responded by informing the insurance company

that this was incorrect and that Arsenio had never been treated for nor diagnosed with liver disease prior to Jan. 15, 2013.

Tumulad said Arsenio was only told that there was a mass on his liver.

Fitzgerald said IAC informed Tumulad that "the follow-up visit due to a diagnosis of liver mass and advisement to seek further medical evaluation due to the diagnosis of a liver mass is treatment for a liver disease."

"This statement was false and was intentionally and maliciously made by the defendant for the purpose of avoiding the payment that was due," the lawyer pointed out.

Fitzgerald asserted that IAC should have been aware that

liver problems include a wide range of diseases and conditions that affect the liver and that not all liver problems are considered a disease.

He noted liver mass or non-cancerous benign liver tumors are common, do not spread to other areas of the body, and do not pose a serious health risk.

## 2 Settlement Fund hearing officers selected; arbitrator search ongoing

The Settlement Fund's trustee has already selected two lawyers to serve as administrative hearing officers but the search for qualified arbitrator is ongoing.

As of yesterday, Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang has yet to give the U.S. District Court for the NMI any update on the search for a qualified arbitrator.

In her recent report about the Settlement Fund's operations, Tang revealed that attorneys Maya Kara and Josh Berger have been selected as administrative hearing officers.

Tang also early this week made minor edits to the Appeal Rules and Procedures for administrative proceedings for the court's consideration.

The court has to approve the

rules before administrative proceedings can commence.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood said at a recent hearing that she would talk with U. S. Magistrate Judge of the District of Guam Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr. and U.S. District Court Senior Judge Alex R. Munson to serve as arbitrators.

Tydingco-Gatewood said having either Manibusan or Munson as arbitrators will save the Settlement Fund money as the two judges will not be paid.

Tydingco-Gatewood expressed strong belief that Manibusan and Munson are willing to serve as arbitrators to help the Settlement Fund. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## Storm drainage cleanup near Fiesta short of funds

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is still short of the \$40,000 they need to complete storm drainage cleanup around the Paseo de Marianas and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Runoff pollution is cited as a major reason for the red flags in the nearby lagoon; however, an interagency project to clean up primary and secondary drainages has since stalled due to lack of funds.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said they recently

looked to the governor's Capital Improvements Office for help. He said they met with CIP personnel to look over the greater plans they had for improvements in Garapan. However, the current phase of work, around the former Coffee Room restaurant, is already contracted out and not the site they are looking at.

"We are trying to work with CIP to see if there is any possibilities of raising the level of priority for that area," he said.

"I am asking CIP for \$25,000. That will bring it up to" \$40,000, he said, noting the \$15,000 the Marianas Visitors Authority has

already contributed.

"I'm hoping that's enough to flush out all the laterals into the main canal, and pump out however much we have into that main canal," he said.

According to the CIP office, the "Garapan Water Quality Project" has been contracted to Maeda Pacific Corp. for \$2.05 million.

Notice to proceed was given last August. Date of completion is this June 24.

The project aims to eliminate existing health hazards created by stormwater runoffs discharging into the lagoon and to enhance the major tourism district,

making it visibly appealing and economically vibrant to tourists.

The proposed construction activity is located within the Alaihai Ave., Puti Tainobu Ave., Filooris Ave., Bukiki Ave., Kalachucha Ave., and Orchid St. in Garapan.

The scope of work includes removal of existing structures and facilities and construction of new drainage systems and installation of new underground infiltration chambers and upgraded paved streets with sidewalks and landscaped areas including a bio-retention facility, which filters sediments and contaminants from stormwater runoff.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### MCS PTO to hold Yard Sale

Mount Carmel School PTO will be having a Yard Sale on April 18, 2015, a Saturday, from 8am to 2pm, at the Mount Carmel Cathedral field. Everyone is welcome to participate in the Yard Sale, which will cost \$25 (cash only) per space. To reserve a space, RSVP with Joyce

Pangelinan at 783-1026 or Tina Crisostimo at 285-7695 by April 10. Should you have any questions and/or concerns, contact us at the school or the PTO vice president, Luis Camacho, at 287-9753. **(PR)**

#### Donations sought for UFO Good Friday service

The United Filipino Organi-

zations will be conducting its annual community service to all Mt. Tapochau devotees on Good Friday, April 3, 2015. As in the past years, UFO will be serving free food and water to all individual along the route going up to the Mt. Tapochau summit. UFO is now accepting in-kind donations like disposable cups, spoons, plates, trash

bags, bottled water, candies, eggs, among others. During the events, UFO will also accept membership application for the "Bantay-Kapwa" project (Helping-Hand project) at the site. If you want to donate, contact UFO secretariat Pete Reyes at 989-7317 or UFO president Bong Malasarte at 287-5525. **(UFO)**

### TYPHOON

From Page 1

Paul Stanko of the National Weather Service says the typhoon was packing winds of 100 mph (160 kph) when it passed north of the Yap State atolls of Ulithi and Fais in the Federated States of Micronesia early Wednesday. There have been no reports of casualties in Yap.

"A lot of houses and roofs were blown away, and trees and telephone poles on the main road were blown down," Kane Faylim, airport manager for Chuuk state government, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Officials say super Typhoon Maysak is expected to significantly weaken before reaching the Philippines around Sunday.

The *Pacific Daily News* newspaper in Guam reports the storm was upgraded Tuesday to

a super typhoon. On Wednesday evening, the storm had winds of 150 mph (240 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 15 mph (24 kph).

Widespread damage was reported in Chuuk, which suffered damage Monday.

Many homes made out of tin were destroyed, said Perry Kilion, a pastor who also works at the National Weather Service office in Chuuk. Many residents were without water and sought shelter at schools, he told the *Pacific Daily News*, a newspaper in Guam.

Weather service meteorologist Derek Williams said Tuesday afternoon that Maysak is expected to hit the Philippines on Sunday or Monday.

"Its official track has it straight toward Luzon," he said. Williams said the storm is expected to weaken significantly when it gets to the Philippine Sea, but the storm is still expected to cause widespread damage

there such as flooding.

Though the storm may weaken when it travels away from Micronesia, it is an imminent threat to low-lying islands in Yap State now.

"Our main concern is the atolls northwest of Yap, Fais and Ulithi. The sustained winds are around 150 miles per hour at this point, gusting to 180."

It is expected to pass just north of Fais this afternoon. The eye is about 61 miles away.

"The weather conditions are deteriorating rapidly. Typhoon conditions on Fais is imminent," he said. Ulithi is an atoll about 12 feet above sea level, and Fais is 30 feet above sea level. "The entire island could be covered in water from storm surge." The storm is expected to hit Ulithi tonight.

Hiroyuki Mori, 27, told the Daily News that his home suffered damage, as did those of his neighbors and a nearby ho-

tel in Weno.

"No one was without damage, and we were prepared," he said. "I was lucky. I have a concrete house, unfortunately I (can) not say the same for many of my fellow Chuukese. Ships have sunk. Homes destroyed. Breadfruits, mangoes, bananas and coconuts, our local source of food ... trimmed down to just stems and branches."

Faylim told the AP he doesn't know when the government will be able to fully assess the damage, and he described the situation as difficult.

He said the airport has been reopened after large waves deposited rocks on one of the runways, which airport employees had to clear.

Located about 2,500 miles southwest of Hawaii, the Federated States of Micronesia consists of 607 islands with a population of about 107,000. About 11,000 people live on Yap Island.

#### Standards

GLI, an Australian testing and certification firm, said global standards are available for casino operators regarding the latest gaming machines.

"Best Sunshine is already familiar with the de facto standards, which are the GLI standards," Philip Harrison, senior manager, regulator development, compliance and quality assurance for GLI, said.

GLI is a firm that tests and reviews the compliance of gaming machines used by casinos

all over the world, according to the company website.

The company uses a set of standards that most casinos use. Some of the standards apply to slot machines, regarding technical specifications, integrity of software, and security, Harrison said.

Hallmark said the machines that Best Sunshine will be bringing in are GLI-certified.

Harrison visited the CNMI to have a glimpse of the island's soon-to-be casino industry. He also attended the Commonwealth Casino Commission meeting on Wednesday, primarily as an observer. Harrison said his company is not affiliated with country regulators or casino operators.

Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero stressed that Harrison made the trip on his own and that his travel expenses were not shouldered by the commission.

### ROTA

From Page 1

impact will be the lowering of ferry fares and transport costs of goods.

M/V *Luta* can carry both passengers and cargo.

Atalig, however, said he is not sure how low the ferry fares will go, and this will be up to the operators of M/V *Luta*.

In January, Hocog hosted a meeting with the owners of the vessel, the U.S. Coast Guard, and officials of Rota to discuss the impending arrival of the vessel.

In September 2014, Japanese businessman Takahisa Yamamoto invested about \$1.6 million in the retrofitted cargo and passenger ship that will bring passengers, agricultural goods, and other consumer items to and from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and Guam.

Yamamoto, from Osaka, Japan, owns Luta Mermaid LLC, the main business of which is to operate M/V *Luta*.

"Luta" is other name for "Rota," where the cargo ship will be home-ported.

The 150-foot-long, 500-ton cargo ship was in Louisiana to obtain a certificate of inspection from the U.S. Coast Guard. The ship can accommodate 18 passengers and can carry up to 28 20-foot containers.

Hocog, who has helped Yamamoto realize his plan to further develop Rota, said having a cargo ship home-ported on Rota will reduce freight costs and lower the price of commodities.

The senator said this cargo ship will also be the "answer" to Rota's longstanding problem of food and other commodities shortage every time barges cannot go into the port because of rough seas.





Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, lawmakers, supporters, and partnering agencies join in a group photo after proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse and Neglect Month, and Early Childhood Month.

JAYSON CAMACHO

## APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

# Sexual violence doesn't stop if 'good people' remain silent

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

One in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives. One in six boys and one in four girls will experience sexual assault before the age of 18. To end this devastating and silent problem, anti-sexual violence advocates got together for a proclamation signing yesterday at the Pedro

P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to raise awareness of sexual violence in the CNMI.

Despite Gov. Eloy S. Inos not attending, the proclamation that declares April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month was later signed in the Office of the Governor.

A central tenet to this year's observance is the message that speaking out is necessary to

See **SEXUAL** on Next Page

# PHI Pharmacy Easter SALE

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## Easter Sunday Brunch

**APRIL 5, 2015**

# at Kanoa Resort

Please join us at Isla Café for a sumptuous and extensive buffet selection with live carving station and unlimited Miller Lite beer.

Brunch served from 11:00am to 2:00pm and children can participate in the **EASTER EGG HUNT!**

The Easter Sunday brunch is priced at \$22 for all local residents

For reservations or further information,  
please call (670) 234-6601 ext. 301

**Kanoa Resort**  
 Saipan



# Man in child porn case hires forensic expert

Vincent Masga Songsong, a man arrested by federal agents for allegedly having in his possession a laptop that contained child pornographic materials, has retained a forensic expert to evaluate the computer evidence.

Attorney Colin Thompson, the court-appointed counsel for Songsong, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI during a status conference on Tuesday about the hiring of the forensic expert for their defense.

Thompson said it would take two to three weeks for their forensic expert to complete evaluating the laptop.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton, counsel for the U.S. government, agreed to have another status conference in the case in late April.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the matter for another status conference on April 22, 2015, at 9am.

After the hearing, Manglona remanded Songsong into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Last January, the court ordered Songsong's detention pending trial.

Jury trial will be on May 26, 2015.

Songsong pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of child pornography.

According to the indictment, from Feb. 17, 2014, until Feb. 25, 2014, Songsong knowingly possessed a laptop computer containing visual depiction of a child less than 12 years old engaging in sex. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## A joyful Easter at the Hyatt

On Easter, April 5, 2015, is a beautiful and fun-filled family celebration that marks the culmination of Lent. Hyatt Regency Saipan invites all diners to enjoy the Easter Sunday brunch at Giovanni's followed by a fun-filled Easter egg hunt on the garden grounds. Celebrate and enjoy the family festivities at Hyatt.

After your joyful and time-honored Easter brunch, Camp Hyatt Kids Club will be continuing the Easter festivities with a fun-filled search for beautiful hidden eggs. Both children and the young-at-heart can join in the fun! There will be three different egg hunt schedules to host so all will not miss out on the fun. The early bunnies can get a head start at 11:30am, following the second hunt at 12:30pm, and afternoon bunnies can egg hunt at 1:30pm. The egg hunt is complimentary for children dining with their parents at Kili Cafe & Terrace or Giovanni's. Walk-in guests are welcome to join for \$10. For more information call (670) 234-1234 Ext. 35.

Also available at DJ's Corner this Easter season are Easter-themed macaroons for \$10; chocolate egg, \$8; chocolate bunny, \$6; and traditional hot cross buns, \$1.25. These and other monthly specials will be available throughout the month of April at DJ's Corner.

Easter Sunday brunch will be served from 10:30am to 2pm at Giovanni's. The brunch will feature a vast and beautiful array of Easter selections and will be priced at \$55 per person; \$35 for Club at the Hyatt members. Reservations are highly recommended. (*Hyatt*)

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Saipan International Shooting Range

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan International Shooting Range is proposing to operate an indoor/ outdoor shooting range. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot 1673 (TD 343) in Kanat Tabla at the former shooting range facility. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### SEXUAL

From Page 5

expose the horrors of sexual violence.

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people," said Reina Celis, quoting Martin Luther King Jr.

A victim of sexual assault herself, Celis told her story yesterday to give hope and support to other victims and survivors of sexual assault.

"Ten years ago on a day not out of the ordinary, I became a victim of sexual assault. Despite all the misconceptions regarding sexual violence, I was not at the wrong place at the wrong time," she said.

Celis said she did not provoke the act of violence against her, was not attacked by a complete stranger, and she did not ask for it, but throughout her ordeal she felt robbed of her dignity and her

self-respect.

"I was helpless and alone and was overcome with anger, fear, and shame and after what seemed like hours of pain I have been asking over and over what I had done to deserve this and basically I had to gather all the strength I had left and fight back," she said.

"And I knew that if I was going to die I wasn't going to go down without a fight but thankfully I prevailed and was able to get home to safety and, even though I escaped the assault, I felt robbed of my humanity and my self-worth. I was ashamed and feared of what others would think."

"I remember the last words from my attacker and the threats not to report it out to anyone and I was afraid of taking action against my attacker, even though I knew what he did was wrong and what he did was a crime."

"But there was no other way and I knew the right thing to do was to report this. I knew

I couldn't allow him to roam freely and risk him attacking me again or someone else or someone more helpless."

"And with the support from the family and the strength I needed for the sake of my children, I reported the crime. I hung on until I got my day in court where I took the stand and faced my attacker while reading the entire ordeal in front of everyone. But I took that stand, I fought hard and I got justice and since then I continued picking up the pieces of my life and became a strong person today. I was a victim but now I stand here," she said.

Being a mother, daughter, sister, friend, and coworker in a "tight-knit community," Celis believes that courage inspires courage.

If you see an act of domestic or sexual violence, break that practice of minding your own

business. The right thing to do is to speak out and be that victim's voice, she said.

"We should never turn a blind eye toward violence. Speak out and call for help and let them know that domestic or sexual violence is wrong. It is a crime that will not be tolerated in our community. If we don't do this we give the power of the attacker to destroy lives and create another victim," she said.

"It's time to end the silence and reach out to those who have been victimized and tell them that they are not alone, they do not need to live with the shame and guilt, and they need to know they can get their lives back," she added.

Celis told her story not just to inspire other victims but to also inspire her sons, who would one day know her story and become advocates against sexual and domestic violence.

SaipanTribune Make it your *DAILY* habit.

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc.  
Dbas: Borja Funeral Home

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. dba Borja Funeral Home is proposing to operate a funeral home with crematory services on lots 006 H 11 and 006 H 30. This use is classified as "Funeral Homes" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located along Beach Road, Susupe, north of Bank of Saipan, and east of Aquarius Beach Tower. It is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Huang Shun Corp.  
Dbas: Popz Noni Manufacturing

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Huang Shun Corp. dba: Popz Noni Manufacturing is proposing to manufacture Noni products. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and will be situated on lot EA 444-4R2 along Texas Road behind the Marianas Business Plaza. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

### NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Lee Young Chul

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Lee Young Chul is proposing to construct a one storey commercial building for office use. This use is classified as "Office" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on TR 21732-23. This lot is located along Isa Drive, west of the San Vicente post office. It is zoned as Rural.

Date: April 16th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 14th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman



# CUC: No change in the LEAC rate this April

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that there will be no change in the LEAC fuel charge pass-through for the month of April. While the average fuel prices did rise

3.18 percent, this increase did not equal or exceed the 4.5-percent threshold. As a result, the current LEAC fuel charge of \$.17108 per kWh will remain in effect for the month of April.

LEAC stands for Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause and is one of the two components of a power bill. The LEAC is used for fuel purchases, while the second rate component is the

electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

In July 2014, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission granted the utility the abil-

ity to adjust the LEAC charge depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent of the av-

erage per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge. The CPUC conducts periodic reviews of CUC's fuel charges to ensure that consumers pay no more or less than the actual cost of fuel. CNMI consumers have experienced almost 45 percent decline in the LEAC since mid-2014. **(CUC)**

## New potato, sweet potato types to improve Pacific food security

**SUVA, Fiji**—Almost 70 new varieties of potato and sweet potato will soon be available to Pacific Island countries and territories, to improve food security across the region.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees, based in Suva, Fiji, has received 42 new potato varieties as tissue cultures that are sub-tropical, heat-tolerant, and resistant to some potato viruses.

Potato is becoming one of the most consumed crops in the Pacific Islands region, with some countries and territories begin-

ning to grow potatoes, while Fiji imports FJD 17 million of potatoes every year.

The new potato varieties originate from Peru, while the sweet potato tissue cultures are also mainly from Peru, as well as Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador.

Accessing new, adaptable, and resilient hybrids will assist countries and territories with import substitution to improve food security.

"The Centre also received tissue cultures of 27 advanced hybrid sweet potato varieties, all of which have orange and purple

flesh that is high in nutrients to help improve diets in Pacific communities," SPC Genetic Resources coordinator Valerie Tuia said.

"The fast-growing and early-maturing sweet potato varieties are an ideal crop in disaster rehabilitation efforts and food security programs, although we're currently preparing other varieties for anticipated distribution in the coming weeks to areas impacted by Cyclone Pam," she said.

In Cook Islands, Niue, and Samoa, these orange and purple varieties are very popular for the tourist market and they will support smallholder farmers supplying this market.

A growing demand by Pacific countries and territories for disease-resistant and nutrient-rich crop diversity, that is suitable for a tropical climate, prompted CePACT to continue sourcing new, improved varieties from its partners in the Consultative Group of International

al Agriculture Centers.

The new crops were acquired from the International Potato Center, based in Peru, one of CePACT's partner institutes in the CGIAR group.

The materials are part of the global gene pool of the multi-lateral system of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in collaboration with the

Global Crop Diversity Trust.

SPC's strategic partnership with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade enables SPC to source, multiply, and distribute new resilient crop diversity to support community food security projects in the Pacific.

The Fiji Biosecurity Authority of Fiji also provides valuable support to SPC's work by facilitating provision of import permits using international standards so that Pacific countries and territories can access these new varieties. **(SPC)**

## UOG 2014 audit: Continued financial improvement and enrollment growth

The University of Guam's fiscal year 2014 audit showed continued financial strength as the university's Good to Great (G2G) implementation is taking root. The audit conducted by Deloitte and Touche, gave the university a clean (unqualified) audit opinion with only one finding with no questioned cost. The five compliance findings from the prior year were satisfactorily addressed. This is the second straight year that UOG has received a clean audit opinion.

Operating revenues were nearly \$95 million, a slight increase from the prior year. The university also reported a \$4.1 million surplus, an improvement of \$600K over fiscal 2013. The major driver behind the results was tight financial management controls that were implemented as part of the G2G programs.

"This academic year, UOG has enjoyed record enrollment with students numbering almost 4,000 students and credit hour production nearing 47,000," said president Robert Underwood. "We are expecting to serve over 4,000 students in fall 2015 and are looking forward to future enrollment growth."

Senior vice president Anita Borja Enriquez added, "This report is well timed as this is the type of financial improvement that the WASC accreditation group has wanted to see. With a WASC team arriving this fall, the new of continued financial

improvement could not have come at a better time. It is also heartening to see the increasing demand for STEM subjects as more and more students are recognizing UOG as the place they can get a very strong technical education that will support their careers for the next 30 years or more."

"These results lay the groundwork for regaining a low risk audit status for the university this fiscal year 2015," said vice president of Administration and Finance Randy Wiegand. "The credit for this success goes to our business office accountants and other UOG employees who have contributed to improved grant management."

Other audit highlights:

- The governor and the Legislature appropriated a total of \$34.6M to UOG, of which \$27M was for operations and \$7.6 million for special appropriations.

- UOG received nearly \$36M in revenue from grants and contracts. This includes awards for student financial aid, developmental disabilities, cancer research, etc. This is a decrease from last year due to the completion of large federal grant awards including the ARRA grants.

- Operating expenses decreased by \$360K as a direct result of the university's implementation of its Financial Management Plan. **(UOG)**

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 28th birthday to our pillar of support, anchor in life, biggest fan, loyal supporter, emotional healer, eye candy and most important of all, an amazing father, my loving husband, Gary Jacque Sablan Cruz! May you always fly high in life and touch all your dreams. With lots of love, DJ, Dame, and your wifey!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# EASTER

## FUN TIME at PIC

Sunday April 5, 2015

Enjoy a full day of activities including  
**Easter Egg Decoration at 10 AM,**  
**the Great PIC Easter Egg Hunt at 4 PM and more!**  
 Must purchase a PIC Waterpark pass to join the whole day of fun activities.  
 \$20 per person for CNMI residents with valid ID  
 The Easter Egg Hunt is FREE to all The Magellan and The Galley customers too.  
 Present a copy of your receipt to the Information Center to join the activity.

**Savor the bountiful Easter Brunch**  
**in The Magellan with family and friends.**  
 \*\$30 per adult, \*\$15 per child  
**Magellan Brunch and Waterpark Promo**  
 \$33 per adult, \$25 per child  
**Reservations recommended.**  
 Please call 237-5126 or send email to [FrancesKai.Mafnas@picsaipan.com](mailto:FrancesKai.Mafnas@picsaipan.com)  
 \*Local resident discount applies.  
 Must present a valid local ID.



# HPO aims to fill archaeologist post but...

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Historic Preservation Office has set a \$65,000 salary for their staff archaeologist

position but prospects appear dim. Their previous archaeologist was the only applicant for the job after it had been vacant three years, according to HPO. This week the Historic Pres-

ervation Office review board directed HPO management to seek the services of Dr. Thomas F. King, a known Amelia Earhart expert and scholar familiar with the Marianas, to help comment on impact documents for military training on Pagan and Tinian. Meanwhile, HPO disclosed that they have had talks with the Finance office to "restructure" their full-time equivalent historian position to further fund the archaeologist job.

During the CNMI Historic Preservation Review board meeting on Tuesday, HPO revealed that they have set \$65,000 salary for the position paid out using federal money supplemented with local funds. Past budget for the salary was at \$41,000.

Vice chair Dr. Hiro Korishini recommended that the salary be made commensurate with qualifications and experience. He noted that a person just out of graduate school would not make the \$65,000 amount, adding that salary should be based on how much the person is worth, not the position.

He also recommended that Dr. King be contacted for his services, or his help in finding people to help HPO.

According to HPO, their previous archaeologist, Eric Lash, was the only applicant who came out for the position when it was vacant from 2011 to 2014

before he came on board.

To further fund the position, HPO management noted ongoing talks with the Department of Finance to have local funds budgeted for a historian be restructured for an archaeologist.

Noting the DEIS for Pagan and Tinian, board member Don Farrell asked both Department of Community Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro and HPO director Merti Kani if one archaeologist was adequate. They both said, "No."

On the DEIS for Pagan and Tinian, HPO disclosed that Lash "has agreed to participate in consultation meeting on a voluntary basis."

Farrell stressed the importance of guidance on Section 106 talks of the National Historic Preservation Act, which compels federal bodies like the military to address issues of impact to historical sites.

"There are going to be things on Tinian that are going to be destroyed," Farrell said of the impact.

For the Section 106 talks, Farrell said they will need to issue a "programmatic agreement" between the people of the CNMI affected and the people causing the effect.

"What will they need to do to protect or ameliorate those [adverse] impacts?" he said of the questions that must be asked.

## SDA hold in-school spelling and science competitions

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Seventh Day Adventist School students dazzled with their spelling and science skills during school competitions last week.

Faith Hoyt, SDA public relations assistant, said the school classrooms were transformed into a science fair expo last Thursday. Students from every class displayed their experiments to a panel of judges.

"Our teachers are proud of the hard work our students put into their science experiments," she said.

After the fair, SDA held a down-to-the wire spelling bee competition, principal Michael Burgland said.

"A big thanks goes out to all the students who participated in the science fair. ...All of our participants made a great showing," the principal said.

In Kindergarten from first to third places, science fair winners were Juan Banacia, Wayne Ano, and Kelly Selkor. For first grade, they were Dennis Ahn, Chloe Berglund, and Kyle Diesta.

For second grade, Jason Kim, Gwanpil Son, and Seiya Takizawa won first to third place, respectively. For third grade Victoria Duhon, Charles Cepeda, Sagar Khadka and Sarawut Sukanpong came in first, second, and third place, respectively.

In the fourth grade, Marielle Lopez and Ryan Koon placed

first, JinA Choi placed second, and Jun Wang placed third. In the fifth and sixth grade, Roy Yoon came in number one, Seong Eon Heo won second place, and Johfy Dela Cruz placed third.

Seventh and eighth grade finishers from first to third places were Vincent John Reyes, Emma Timmons, and Cheyanne Manuel.

For SDA's spelling bee, kindergartners Gwanhun Son, Banacia, and Pete Phair place first to third place, respectively. In the first grade, Kyle Diesta, Mika Camacho, and Dennis Ahan placed first, second, and third place respectively.

In the second grade, Gwanpil Son came in first, Dustin Hyun, second, and Jason Kim third. In the third and fourth grade, Sunny Hyun got first place, Sion Park got second, and Victoria Duhon earned third place.

In the fifth and sixth grade, Keiph

Manual, Shaquille Calub, and Roy Yoon, came in first, second, and third place, respectively. In seventh and eighth

grade, Russel Yoon won first place, Erin Yoon won second, and En Ming Cacdac earned third place.



A student shows off her science entry.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Notice Of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at 5:00 PM, Multipurpose Center, Susupe  
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of March 19, 2015 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

### B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2015-1151:** Lee Young Chul is proposing to construct a one storey commercial building for office use. This use is classified as "Office" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal will be situated on TR 21732-23. This lot is located along Isa Drive, west of the San Vicente post office. It is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2015-1369:** Huang Shun Corp. dba: Popz Noni Manufacturing is proposing to manufacture Noni products. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and will be situated on lot EA 4444-R2 along Texas Road behind the Marianas Business Plaza. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2015-1279:** Saipan International Shooting Range is proposing to operate an indoor/ outdoor shooting range. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot 1673 (TD 343) in Kanat Tabla at the former shooting range facility. This area is zoned as Rural.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2014-3520:** Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. dba Borja Funeral Home is proposing to operate a funeral home with crematory services on lots 006 H 11 and 006 H 30. This use is classified as "Funeral Homes" and is permitted in this district as a Conditional Use. This area is located along Beach Road, Susupe, north of Bank of Saipan, and east of Aquarius Beach Tower. It is zoned as Village Commercial.

### C. Communications/ Reports

### D. Old Business

1. None

### E. New Business

1. Office Operations Report (Permit and Enforcement)

### F. Executive (Closed) Session.

### G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

**INVITATION FOR BID**  
*(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)*  
**BID SUBMISSION DATE:** April 23, 2015\* \*\* **TIME:** 10:00 AM  
**\*\*\*AMENDMENT\*\*\***  
**NMHC IFB 2015-004**  
**HOME REHABILITATION LOCATED IN KOBLERVILLE LOT NUMBER 005 I 272**  
Interested contractors may pick-up proposal packets on March 27, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of FiftyDollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).  
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 14, 2015, at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan.  
This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).  

/s/ Tom Glenn A. Quitugua  
**Board Chairman & Contracting Officer**

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
**Director, Division of Procurement & Supply**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RFP NO.: RFP15-OVR-062**  
**SUBMISSION DATE:** APRIL 29, 2015 **TIME:** 10:00 A.M.  
**"STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"**  
THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 26, 2015 AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.  
A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION NAVY HILL, SAIPAN, ON APRIL 14, 2015 AT 10:00A.M. LOCAL TIME. PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE ORIENTATION.  
QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MS. ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC, OVR DIRECTOR, AND TRANSMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmidir@ovrgov.net NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 20, 2015. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.  
THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.  

/s/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC  
**DIRECTOR, OVR**

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
**DIRECTOR, P&S**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-048(A)(B)(C)**  
**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE:** APRIL 14, 2015 **TIME:** 10:30 AM  
**"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) TRAILERS FOR BOATS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY SECTION"**  
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.  
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN ANY BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.  

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO  
**COMMISSIONER, DPS**

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
**DIRECTOR, P&S**



# PIC gives \$5,000 to Hopwood reading program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students in grades 7 and 8 have read millions of words this school year, taking part in a program that encourages reading as a means to further develop communication skills, encourage self-confidence, and increase levels of comprehension for all classroom subjects.

Pacific Islands Club executive administrative assistant Vicky Benavente presented the Hopwood Jr. High School with a check for \$5,000 representing the annual Education Tax Credit, as an incentive to continue with the reading program at the school.

Language Arts class instruc-

tor Linda Birmingham Babauta said, "It's not easy to get students at this age to give up their social life and read, but I'm a firm believer that reading empowers, so I push them to read, read, read, and read some more. This year our students have stepped up and read millions and millions of words. I am so proud of them."

Hopwood vice principal Epi Cabrera stated, "The Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is truly appreciative of the \$5,000 Educational Tax Credit contribution made by the Pacific Islands Club today. PIC continues to be a life-long

community partner in educating the lives of our students and community at large, especially as they support literacy and reading. A large part of the contribution will be used as incentives for our students that have read over million-plus words and for those that have read the most books in a team—this equates to over 300-plus students. This contribution will surely boost student morale and love of reading across our campus. Thank you again PIC for your generous support and for valuing the importance of literacy in our community." (PR)

Students, teachers, and vice principal Epi Cabrera from the Hopwood Jr. High School are presented with an ETC donation of \$5,000 from the Pacific Islands Club Saipan executive administrative assistant Vicky Benavente, center.

## Bank sets up account to accept donations for Maysak's victims

**HAGATNA, Guam**—Bank of Guam is partnering with Ayuda Foundation to rush much needed medical supplies to the islands of Chuuk and Yap following the devastation caused by Super-typhoon Maysak. The bank is funding \$5,000 worth of medical supply packages to the islands, which will be delivered either by airdrop or boat.

The bank, which has branches in both Chuuk and Yap, has announced that their Chuuk branch had limited operating hours yesterday, and is scheduled to resume normal operating hours today. The Bank of Guam Chuuk branch is opened 9am to 3pm Monday through Thursday, and 9am to 5pm on Friday. Their telephone number is (691) 330-2567.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer and board chair stated, "We are saddened to learn of the deaths and devastation to our neighboring islands, and send our support for a speedy recovery."

Leon Guerrero further stated, "In addition to establishing an account to accept financial contributions to send to the islands, we are providing direct assistance to all of our Bank

of Guam employees in those branches."

Bank of Guam, with assets over \$1.4billion, is in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year with 23 branches through-

out Guam and western Micronesia. Its Chuuk branch has been in existence since 1980, and the Yap branch was opened in 2009. (BoG)



### Loss Adjuster

The USDA, Farm Service Agency is accepting applications for two (2) Loss Adjuster positions – one (1) on Rota and one (1) on Saipan. Applicants MUST have experience in Tropical Agriculture. A Loss Adjuster is an independent contractor who will visit farms for the purpose of inspecting, measuring, and appraising agricultural crops. A Loss Adjuster will also ensure compliance with acreage and production reporting requirements. Training will be provided. Pay begins at \$10.00 per hour for orientation, formal classroom, and on the job training. Pay will increase to \$18.00 per hour after successful completion and certification. Authorized travel expenses for training will be paid.

Interested applicants may inquire with the Guam County FSA Office at (671) 300-8550. Completed applications MUST be submitted by close of business April 16, 2015 to the Guam County FSA Office, 770 E. Sunset Blvd., Suite 265, Barrigada, Guam 96913. Fax: (855) 356-9491.

The Farm Service Agency is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### EDITORIAL

## Bank on it: The US should join China's new Asian venture

The following editorial appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Monday, March 30:

**T**he United States has unsuccessfully opposed some of its key allies' decisions to join China's new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

China initiated and has put \$50 billion in capital behind its effort to build a new development bank in Asia. It has recruited so far as founding members 36 countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Kingdom as well as most Asian countries, in spite of American pressure on these countries to stay out. Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the idea of the bank in 2013, drawing on China's \$3 trillion in foreign exchange reserves and desire to expand its activities in Asian development.

The United States has opposed the new Chinese undertaking, in spite of President Barack Obama's highly publicized 2012 "pivot to Asia." It has done so in an effort to preserve the U.S. and Western European catbird seat in international economic and financial affairs gained in the 1944 Bretton Woods creation of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund. The U.S. preserves for itself the presidency of the International Bank; a European—frequently French—heads the IMF.

U.S. opposition to the Asia bank is unrealistic and out of touch. China currently is considered the world's second-largest economy and is expected to rise to first, ahead of the United States, this year. If American firms and banks are to play a role in the development of as yet relatively undeveloped parts of Asia, Washington needs to get America in on the ground floor of this enterprise, not fight history.

America's inability to influence European powers such as France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom not to accept China's invitation to become founding members of the new venture goes hand-in-hand with the decline of U.S.-led NATO as Europe's primary security organ.

The United States, consistent with its concentration on Asia, should be another founding member of the Asia bank. How, otherwise, can it expect to be part of the new development bank's governance and activities?

(c)2015 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



## Hail to volunteers Betty and Pris

**B**etty was married to a dentist. At 89, she died this week in Metro Chicago. A "sister" of hers who married a railroad man lives the sunset of her years in Kansas. What brought them together was a human development project on the Westside of Chicago in a predominantly black community.

OK. Let me get myself into the picture. In February 1967, a bunch of students that included me from the Philippines drove from Kentucky to Daley's Windy City with a sociology mentor, professor to the police commissioner. We looked at the city's attempts of church people serving the inner cities as others of the faithful retreated to suburban churches.

We laid our heads at night at a "soup and bread" storefront. Church folks of the Reformation's quietist traditions sheltered and fed homeless people without much ado save a moment of prayer, a hymn sung, and a witness in Jesus' name.

But in '67, MLK Jr. organized the ghetto community to assert their rights to services mandated by the War on Poverty. Saul Alinsky did the same in a feistier confrontational manner that got tenants standing up to their landlords with radical spunk. Alinsky's geographical concentration would one day attract a young man as a community organizer named Barack Hussein Obama.

We visited the Fifth City project that lassoed the gifts of the cross-section of the inner city, the city proper, the suburb, and the exurb to form a "fifth" city. Well-meaning folks were in less fortunate communities to further church missions but retreated to their distant homes at night.

Fifth City, on the other hand, had Congolese cross-wearing "weird navy blue shirt" gringos, crazy utopian dreamers in my eyes at the time, facilitating the project and lived in the neighborhood's dilapidated structures, delimited a geography, dealt with all the issues and all the people within simultaneously, identified and made the community conscious of the deep underlying contradiction they fought, and keyed on symbols for tactics. The Fifth City's Iron Man statue still graces the community.

In the evening, we cruised in police cars to experience what the inner city was like. My team drove through uptown where immigrants from around the world congregated, driving the originals out to the suburbs, into the manicured lawns of Evanston and the lake-shore.

I remember an old theatre called Uptown, not too distant from where I spent considerable time later at the corner of Sheridan and Lawrence. A structure previously occupied by Kemper Insurance, donated to the Ecumenical Institute, it later housed the global staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs that I joined in Manila in '72. A familiar Fifth City voice from my visit in '67 called after I returned

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



to Pea Eye from studies. EI folks lived in a perennially flooded Manila slum and these utopian dreamers had me intrigued by their innocence.

Back in '67, Betty and Pris bathed in the Fifth City radical experiment on human expenditure. Not too long after, they become "volunteers" in a New Women's Forum that met on a regular basis in the Westside.

When MLK Jr. was assassinated, Chicago lit bonfires while locals joined the Black Panthers. The Democratic Party's convention that August in the city solidified a resolve that black folks were no longer going to be society's doormat without their consent, even if they choose to be Gandhian nobodies.

Betty and Pris' group continued to extend a helping hand to Fifth City but were stopped by the EI staff and were asked to let the "blue shirts" and the local community fend for themselves. Undeterred, Betty and Pris discovered that they carried their own gender contradictions on self-esteem and self-confidence in a predominantly patriarchal society. Their selfie birthed a Global Women's Forum.

With professional husbands, Pris and Betty, and the group they were a part of called EI Guardians, fanned out around the globe, enabling a Fifth City dynamic in every time zone across the planet including Majuro and Mactan, Kelapa Dua and Kreuzberg, Caño Negro and Sungai Lui, Maliwada and Vogar, Ijede and Azpitia de Conacaste, Mowanjum and Sol de Septiembre.

I won't bother giving Pris and Betty's last names. The folks of their kind are legion, with names like Vinod and Kamela, Aimee and Frank, Kang and Park, Charles and Doris, Eunice and Sherwood, George and Wanda, Symond and Dharma, Addi and Elsa, Lynda and John, etc. They were like ordinary volunteers in today's Saipan, Lynn and John, Tony and Janet, Vivian and Frank, Bobbi and Vince, etc., save for the monastic intensity of their corporate discipline. They nursed here-and-now requirements. They held the future in their hands, or at least, in their minds.

Rest easy Betty. Si Yu 'us Maasi.



# Timuneron Gobietnota

Fitme, ma`lag na esperansa yan inañgoghu guaha gi tutuhon 1978 `nai tatutuhon gumubietnan maisa hit. Guaha siha adelantu yan lokue` chinatsaga man-huyuñg gi karera mona. Man-mana`e` hit ni federat siete años garentiha na fondu para ta pegaye i tanu` fasilidat siha kosake ke siña u guaha adelantu gi kinalamten ekonomia.

Machuchuda` buchita gi mediu ochenta siha na sakan `nai bula todú modun salape` guine. Mampós hit man-diskuidau na ti man-na`sañge hit dididi` para `an u fatoiğe hit chata`an `sino mat-tiempu.

Mattu dispues i chata`an ni mama` rimulinon pagyu. Hasan fondu gi kahan iya Marianas. Ni para apas obligasion siha makat masoda`e`. Ha inklusu \$29 na kobransan utilidat, \$29miyon para man-ritirau, \$15 miyon kobransan utilidat hospitat; \$42 miyon para PSS, \$40 miyon para operasion hospitat, \$100 miyon apas tanu` (land compensation) yan otrú siha man-te`ug na obligasion. Mauleg ta ketuñgu` kuantu humalom na kontribusion tax para ta pesa kontra obligasion siha. Anaku` mampós i litanias dibi na biahe.

Ha fagcha`e` hit i mafanana`an “tumunog siglu” gi ekonomian enteru elmundu. Kontodu hita ni sumen dikiki` ekonomiata hana` fan gagalileg gi halom fache apenas.

Lastima i appottunidat i ochenta siha na sakan. Humuyuñg faktorian magagu, megai man-dañkulu na bisnes Japonés man-hanau, i solu industrian turista inipós chafleg.

Makat na karera para estake u guaha petmanente na añklan ekonomia humalom para u katsu nesessidatta siha.

Guaha motibu na taiguine masusede. Ti poduñg ha` ginen i mapagahes ya hana` fan panas hit todú. Deste ayu na sinisede man-nina` fan diskalantau i sabiun hegsu` I Deni`. Sige pa`gu maliliku`e` palun bandera ma-aliligau i palu lau magugu`ot ha` mientras sige mañgilulog gi oriya.

Lastima i man-apalo`pu` na diskuidu siha. I esperansa yan inañgoghu matai dañges gi halom dañkulun pagyun diskuidun man-ma`gasta. Haf` futtunan famaguonta?

## Uchan ñaihón iya paraíso

Gi finatton mattiempu, ha rega i tanu` fresko na uchan punta pot punta. Ha tutuhon i tinanom siha man-mañusu. I nuebu na simiya adumididi` man-lachok gi hatdin. Dispues de pagyun choda i sigiente ha`ane siha tinampe nubladu. Ti gofha`an lau freskon ñaihón i tanu` piot sa` trabiha tiempón somnag. Regulatmiente, i primet agua esta i mes Abrit.

I chiop sirenu gi hagun cha`guan abundansia gi chakchak ha`ane. Yangin mohón tinatiye minañgau gualafon, mas hana` fan pasensia hit gi kareta diariu. Lau taigue i pilan sa` dos semana antes `nai mattu. I animon todus ti marebaha. Kada unu sige ha espiha todú koyentura pot mantension familia.

# Why we should honor a woman on the \$20 bill

By MARIA CASTELLUCCI  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

What’s one thing all the cash in your wallet has in common? The face of an old, white man.

Granted, all of the men who adorn paper currency are historically significant to our nation. George Washington bravely led the troops during the Revolutionary War and was our first president. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves and kept a crumbling nation united. They deserve such an honor.

Women also have played an important role in our nation’s history, but there are few ways in which we have commemorated them.

That could all change if the Women on 20s campaign gains enough traction. The campaign aims to put a woman from American history on the \$20 bill by 2020, replacing President Andrew Jackson.

People can choose from 15 candidates on the website women20s.org, including feminist Betty Friedan, abolitionist Sojourner Truth and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The women were chosen based on their historical impact and the hardship involved in completing their accomplishments.

Other candidates are Harriet Tubman, who bravely freed some 300 slaves on the Underground Railroad, and Susan B. Anthony, prominent for her courageous fight in the women’s suffrage movement.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Healthcare reform: Senators, my blood is boiling!

Those who know me know that I am usually calm and collect but holy smokes!

I spoke to a few senators about helping support the change to Public Law 16-51. This is what was said: 1) I wouldn’t support it because I don’t feel right putting the board of trustees in charge. It should be the doctors. 2) I think we need to put it on the back burner because there are more important issues right now.

Wow! I telephoned Dr. Walker and asked him how I should respond to this. First, he said remain calm. The second is that he had

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Un` atan i hegsu` man-sabiu gi Deni`. Ayu hohoña i mapatek tai sinahguan na latan sitbesa papa` yan hulu` gi hegsu`. Ilegña si Magoo na ti ayu promesan niha gi tautau fuera ke para uma-adelanta ha`anen i tautau siha. Kasse esta masge ayu na promesa sa` mayot-ten ñaihón gi un` banda. Ha petsige na hombre i Saina ha tagu` si Moises para u lagnos i Israelitas ginen Ehiptu pot man-matrarata kumu esklabu.

“I tautau-ta esklabon diskuidon man-ma`gas `nai fuetsau man-pinalo`pu` chinatsaga”, ha mente si Magoo. “Magahet na sumen mapot propiu planu pot adelanton linala` natibu?” Hu apagat na mauleg-ña bai`n hanau muna`chochu pinegsai ke para bai`n sige ha` umatisa i mismu problema ni kada ratu man-mamohmu i publiku. Chumaleg.

## Kilu`us Gi Hegsu`

Ginen santatte na patte gi sitiun i gima` `nai a`anok hulu` gi hegsu` un` kilu`us ni nina` tachon tautau-ta gi ma`pos na Bietnes Santo. Guiya ayu na buttú señat pinite yan puti. Yangin mauleg hau na kilisyau pues libianu un` pula` i sustansian haf` ha signifika ayu na kilu`us.

Huñgan, guaha `nai ha gacha` hit pinite pot asuntota siha diariu. `Nai tatotpe didog na puti pues guiya ennaui diñga` chinatsaga. Mina` mauleg in` rinueba asuntun espirituat sa` i inañgoghu gi Saina mafattu tatte benefisiu giya hita.

Tatnai chatniassuyu` mantension-hu para agupa`. Sen man-na`e` i Saina. Hombre i paluma siha gi aire yan troñkun hayu ha po`luye mantension niha. Gaige kanaña `nai siña hit manman-gu`ot fitme pot no tafan basnag gi aplacha` na sadog linache. Atetuye.

## Lastron Masahalom

Gi todú ta petsige gaige gi un` banda lastron masahalomta pot tafachuchu`e` haf` ta petsisige. Kanaha` megaiña besis felis i tafachuchuchu`e`. Guaha ha` lokue` `nai tita komple `sino masge` haf` guinefitá.

Gi todú atmos banda ta li`e regalón finachucho`ta `sino hafanu`e` mauleg na leksion lina`la` gi karera mona. Maseha makat lau ti sumeha hau gi un` petsisige. Esta i uttimu suspiros sumaga hau para unna` fonhayan che`cho`mu.

Cha`mu hinahalañg `sino dineskonsuesuela. Dipotsihe kada hulu`, papa` kulan dineku` atdaui diariu ni tumunog dispues gi san-lagu. Si lku. Felis pasguan resureksion!

This may seem like a snub of Jackson, but supporters of the change argue that his image is tainted by his role in the forced removal of Native Americans from their lands to Oklahoma, known as the Trail of Tears. Also, they say, he preferred coins over paper currency anyway.

The faces on U.S. bills haven’t changed since the 1920s. Considering all the achievements women have made since then, it is time for a woman to get the recognition.

The campaign organizers note that first lady Martha Washington had a short-lived moment in 1886 on a \$1 certificate. Susan B. Anthony and Sacagawea, who guided the Lewis and Clark expedition, are on silver dollars, which are in limited circulation and often mistaken for quarters. But a paper note would be a much more powerful, and less forgettable, honor.

Changing the bills would be a relatively easy process. Portrait changes require an order by the secretary of the treasury, not congressional approval.

President Barack Obama expressed support for the idea last year after a young woman sent him a letter asking why there were no women on paper currency.

Step aside, Andrew Jackson. It’s a woman’s turn.

*Maria Castellucci is a student at Columbia College Chicago and an intern on the Tribune Editorial Board.*

heard the misinformation campaign mentioned in No. 1 above before. He said the current Public Law 16-51 has CEO Muña in charge. She has a committee called board of advisers under her. She appoints them. They do not evaluate her. So there are no, none, zero doctors in charge right now! If we do nothing to overturn Public Law 16-51 then it stays that way. His idea is to put all of the doctors in charge of their own doctoring. No one gets in the way. The CEO will remain in charge of all of the administrative tasks but none of the doctoring. Muña is not a doctor so what have we got now? The board of trustees oversees both arms and two positions on the board of trustees will be doctors. In fact, CMS Medicare currently mandates at least one board member to be a doctor. So, if you truly believe that doctors should be in charge of doctoring then absolutely Public Law 16-51 needs changing. Why not follow the mainland U.S. system anyway? Why do our politicians always feel the need to change things—usually for the worse! Or leaving it now, for the worse!

## LITERARY NOOK

# On April: Fools, mirth, and ballet school’s worth

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

April is National Poetry Month. Some offerings for your enjoyment. First a weekly alphabetical haiku calendar, then some sonnets, and a shout out.

### April Come She Will With Pollen

Poetry month and April fools  
thirty days to read, write, and rhyme  
at home, at work, and in our schools  
just need to find a little time  
Now we have passed the foolish first  
April come she will with pollen  
to hear fresh poems a schoolish thirst  
with runny nose, eyes all swollen  
In the street sweet chirping is heard  
trees spread pollen through the city  
sympathetic song from a bird  
allergy problems get pity  
Warm winds blow, a new moon last night  
the darkness made the stars so bright

(written in the Northern Mojave Desert, April 4, 2010)

### The Dearth of Mirth

The poetry of mirth is never dead  
when rodeo clowns cavort in the sun  
honey bees buzz around a sticky bun  
and a be bop boom box beats in your head  
Aristophanes flicks frogs off his boot  
a chorale of mimes in mute mockery shout  
“Zip a dee doo dah” in case there’s any doubt  
pirouettes and pratfalls make their point moot  
The poetry of mirth hollers out its song  
to a melting snowman in a March front yard  
as a zephyr wind blows winter blues away  
jonquils and ‘Johnny-jump-ups’ can do no wrong  
Mardi Gras brouhaha parades big tubs of lard  
right past hilarity towards April Fool’s Day

### Mirth’s Foolish Future

Mirth said, “You asked what do I want to be.”  
I want to keep being a complete fool  
living far from dead end logic alley  
where forked tongue twisting tales go to school  
A poor reincarnated fool I once  
made princes, kings, and queens smile and laugh  
wary though of their clever nitwit dunce  
one slip of my tongue and they cut me in half  
Keeping up sly comments and caterwaul  
jive talk, smart aleck blab, doggerel too  
mirth is much ado about nothing at all  
foddlle diddle dooddle toodde dee doo  
Foolishness ready for those who despise  
here come mirth pies headed straight for your eyes

Finally, a shoutout to Anna Glushko and her absolutely superb local dancing girls who all performed brilliantly in Glushko Academy’s presentation of Swan Lake this past weekend. This is the first part of a three-part ode I wrote which first appeared in the Saipan Tribune on Dec. 24, 2004.

#### Part I: Practice (an excerpt from a longer work)

one two three / ballerinas being born / elementary steps  
rushing home / picking up the kids / ballet today  
practice / try it again / French dance terms  
new steps learned / as muscles begin to build / friends smile  
students spin / movement in the studio / sprightly and supple  
tiny tots twirl / play and pirouette / proud parents

Spasiba (thanks) Anna for what you do for the community.

Personally, I do not think that elected senators have the right to deny healthcare or make decisions that will cost people their lives. Doing nothing means that people from Tinian and Rota must be transferred by airplane to Saipan. Many patients do not make it and those that do may suffer because of the delay. An orthopedic surgeon is not on Saipan so again, another transfer! How can they say «back burner» and do nothing. This is why we elected them. How can you be so blind and stupid!

I also wish to comment on Esther Muña saying we need a neurosurgeon. Dr. Walker is a fellowship trained and board certified spine surgeon. He said it would be great to have a neurosurgeon to perform surgeries in the head and some spine but is Muña dreaming? The hospital has been cited for poor airflow in the operating room. There are no pulsed flow ventilators or ways to monitor intracranial pressure (I don’t know what that means). There is training, equipment and OR upgrades that would be over a million dollars! Maybe the marijuana is being already tested out at CHCC!

Senators, wake up and do something! Get us out of this mess! Shame on you!

## Mary Tomokane

Garapan, Saipan







# USNS Wheeler delivers supplies to Northern Islands

A U.S. naval ship assisted Northern Islands residents during a recent visit.

USNS *Vice Adm. K.R. Wheeler* (T-AG 5001) transported food, medical supplies, and building materials to the Northern Islands, including Pagan, on March 16-19. In addition, crew members repaired two antennas damaged during a storm.

The visit came about because of a March 3 lunch between Northern Mariana Islands Mayor Jerome K. Aldan, mayoral staff member Lorraine F. Castro and the ship's Master, Capt. John Masnfield, hosted aboard the ship.

Because *Wheeler* can operate in shallow water and has small craft that are organic to the ship,

The USNS *Vice Adm. K.R. Wheeler* (T-AG 5001) transported food, medical supplies, and building materials to the Northern Islands, including Pagan, on March 16-19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



the mayor requested assistance. On March 13, *Wheeler* loaded up with various supplies and headed north. *Wheeler's* assistance to the Northern Islands highlights one of the many benefits provided Military Prepositioning Squadron 3 ships.

*Wheeler* is a one-of-a-kind vessel. It has an offshore petroleum distribution system that can pump fuel or water up to eight miles from ship to shore to supply military or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. The 348-foot long and 70-foot wide ship's large propellers and thrusters allow it to maintain a precise location in the water via a computer-controlled system known as Dynamic Positioning.

*Wheeler* is also engineered to provide assistance as it can tow other ships up to 1,000 feet. It is one of the eight Military Prepositioning Ships Squadron ships that frequent the anchorages off Saipan. (*Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office*)

## Mount Carmel School offers mini-courses



From left, Matthew Ong, Dustin Salilin, YuDam Kim, and Juan Blanco dive into Gamification.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crocheting. Jamming. Doodle Day. These are just a few of the dozens of alternative courses that were taught this past week at Mount Carmel School as part of Mini-Course Week. In its 19th year at the school, Mini-Course Week gives junior high and high school teachers and students a chance to take a break from traditional academic instruction and dabble in hobbies and interests that engage students in hands-on learning.

Quin Amog, a junior, signed up for Tomoko Shimizu's Japanese Cooking Course, in which he and his classmates learned how to cook various Japanese dishes. "It was great learning about the different techniques and about Japanese culture too," he said. About Mini-Course Week in general, he said, "It's been fun and a great experience, and it's been great to bond with other students."

For 7th grade student Juan

Blanco, this has been his first experience with Mini-Course Week. "It's been good and fun so far." When asked about what course he has enjoyed the most, he said, "I've really enjoyed Gamification." Taught by the school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Gamification introduced students to the educational and societal benefits of gaming by having them play multiplayer cooperative games.

"Mini-Course Week is a great way to expand our understanding of schooling to include things that people are passionate about," noted Deleon Guerrero. "And it's great to see everyone having fun while learning!"

Mini-Course Week featured a wide array of unique courses, including Rosary Making, Computer Coding, Lollipop Making, Knitting, Basic Farming, and Advanced Musical Chairs. (*MCS*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Quin Amog, left, learns how to cook Japanese food as his teacher, Tomoko Shimizu, guides him.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Darvhan Moses, Aysia Santos, and Mele Ani Cepeda make rosaries in Rosary Making taught by Luz Baldazo.





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# Business

## Japan tankan survey: businesses wary, while spending plans flat

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japanese businesses remain wary over the outlook for the world's No. 3 economy and generally plan to reduce capital investment, according to a central bank survey released Wednesday.

The Bank of Japan's quarterly "tankan" survey will likely reinforce the conviction among many that more stimulus is needed to sustain growth as Japan struggles to escape from more than two decades of stagnation.

The leading measure of business sentiment, based on a survey of 11,126 companies of various sizes, showed more than two-thirds of all companies anticipate further deterioration in conditions, with 83 percent of large manufacturers branding conditions "not so favorable" or "unfavorable."

Japanese businesses anticipate weak demand both at home and overseas for their products and higher costs for materials

thanks to the weakening Japanese yen.

The economy emerged from a half-year recession last year following a sales tax hike that dented consumer and corporate demand. But growth has remained weak.

The latest tankan shows companies plan to reduce capital spending by nearly 5 percent in this fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2016. The companies expect to cut spending on land purchases by nearly 37 percent.

The central bank has been pumping trillions of yen (tens of billions of dollars) into the economy through asset purchases aimed at keeping interest rates low and stimulating inflation. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and others in his government say they expect the strategy to stimulate a "virtuous cycle" of spending and investment.

BOJ Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda expanded those purchases last

fall to counter the recession, and is facing calls for still more stimulus. But Kuroda and many other economists say monetary easing and government spending alone cannot fix Japan's problem with weakening demand, due to its aging and declining population.

The reflationary efforts have weakened the yen, driving up costs for imports of food, energy and many industrial components and materials used by manufacturers. Those rising costs, along with the 3 percent age-point tax hike a year ago, have so far undermined purchasing power without stimulating a rush to spend more.

Annual labor negotiations wrapped up last month with larger-than-usual wage increases for union employees of many of the largest companies, but overall they account for a minor share of the workforce, and incomes have continued to fall over the past several years.

## Google Maps turns into Pac-Man's chomping grounds

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—The virtual streets of Google Maps are being transformed into Pac-Man's chomping grounds in celebration of April Fools' Day.

Google added the option to convert its popular navigation service into the Pac-Man video game on Tuesday morning, around the same day the calendar turned to April 1 in Asia. That ushered in a day when Google shows off its playful side by injecting more frivolity into its services.

The gag on Google Maps en-

ables visitors to click on a Pac-Man symbol in the lower left of the screen to play the video game on whatever location is listed in the address bar. As has been happening for nearly 35 years, Pac-Man eats blinking dots while trying to elude four "ghosts"—Pinky, Blinky, Inky and Clyde.

The game can be played in Google Maps on desktop computers or mobile devices that have the latest app update for Apple's iOS or Google's Android software.

This isn't the first time that

Google Inc.'s engineers have paid tribute to Pac-Man. In May 2010, Google tweaked the doodle on its main search page to accommodate games of Pac-Man.

Planting Pac-Man into maps probably won't be Google's only April Fools' stunt, based on the Mountain View, California, company's colorful past. Among other things, Google previously has promised to introduce search by smell, provide a translation tool for animals and posted notices for jobs on the moon.



This screen shot made Tuesday, March 31, 2015 shows the Times Square area of New York in Pac-Man form on Google Maps. Google added the option to convert its popular navigation service into the Pac-Man video game in celebration of April Fools' Day.

# Nation

## Coroner: Death of Andrew Getty appears natural or an accident

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The death at a Hollywood Hills home Tuesday of Andrew Getty, one of the heirs to the fortune of one of the wealthiest and best-known families in American history, was most likely from natural causes or an accident, authorities and family members said.

The death appeared to be from natural causes, Los Angeles County coroner's Assistant Chief Ed Winter said, but it has been initially called an accident because of medication found at the scene.

"The tentative information that we do have is that he was not feeling good for the last couple months," Winter said, "and he supposedly had an appointment tomorrow with a personal physician."

Neither the coroner nor police had officially identified the man, but a statement from 47-year-old Andrew Getty's parents, Ann and Gordon Getty, confirmed it was him.

A woman calling to report that someone had died sent officers to the gated home on Montcalm Avenue shortly after 2:15 p.m. They found a man dead in a bathroom, police spokesman Jack Richter said.

Police Cmdr. Andrew Smith said the woman who had called police was cooperating with the investigation. Richter said she was not arrested and he did not know her identity.

Coroner's vans and news trucks were parked outside the century-old luxury home on

one of the winding roads in the hills that are home to many of the film industry elite.

Getty is one of four sons of Gordon Getty, a San Francisco multimillionaire who is among the richest men in the United States.

The family statement provided no further details on the death and asked that the media and public respect the family's privacy. It said further statements will be issued as information becomes available.

Andrew Getty's grandfather J. Paul Getty was an industrialist who founded the Getty Oil Co. and was at one point named the richest living American by Fortune magazine. He had five sons and died in 1976 at age 82.

## Prisoner who stole gun, fled hospital found in DC

**ANNANDALE, Va. (AP)**—An inmate hospitalized after a suicide attempt overpowered a guard, took her gun, escaped and carjacked two vehicles Tuesday, setting off a frenzied nine-hour search that ended with his capture as he got off a bus in the nation's capital.

Wossen Assaye, 42, was charged earlier this month as the "Bicycle Bandit"—accused of robbing a dozen banks in northern Virginia and sometimes fleeing on two wheels.

Assaye had tried to kill himself in jail and was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital in northern Virginia on Friday,

authorities said. He had been under the supervision of two contract guards.

Police say that about 3 a.m. Tuesday, Assaye overpowered a female guard when the other guard left to use the restroom. He took her gun and used her as a shield. He then fled down a stairwell, wearing only his hospital gown.

The other guard fired one shot in the encounter. No one was hit, and nobody at the hospital was injured.

Outside the hospital, Assaye fled on foot and hid in the trunk of a car. Police were unsure whether Assaye had left the hospital complex. They locked the hospital

down and conducted a room-by-room search.

While Assaye hid in the trunk, the woman who owned the car entered it and began driving. Assaye kicked out the trunk and carjacked the startled woman, who suffered slight injuries, said Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler.

Assaye later abandoned that car and left the guard's weapon there, police said.

Witnesses reported seeing Assaye on foot in an Annandale neighborhood a few miles from the hospital—not far from the site of the carjacking. Assaye then carjacked a second vehicle, police said.

## Police: Man, woman found dead after office shooting

**FRESNO, Calif. (AP)**—A man stormed into a medical office building in downtown Fresno and fatally shot the mother of his five children before he killed himself, police in central California said Tuesday.

In a chaotic scene, people hid in bathrooms at the Eye Medical Clinic and were seen climbing from the building's ground-level windows as police arrived.

Arriving officers heard one gunshot, Fresno police Lt. Joe Gomez said. To help people inside the building get out, police smashed windows and helped people climb to safety, Gomez said.

Fresno Deputy Police Chief Pat Farmer said there are two businesses in the building—a pediatric clinic and an eye clinic. There were 16 employees and patients inside.

"Several people were running out of the building frantically," Farmer said.

No other injuries were re-

ported, Gomez said. Investigators found a shotgun inside the clinic, Gomez said.

Gomez identified the shooter as Neng Moua, 43, of Clovis. The victim is a 33-year-old woman, but her name was not released. Farmer said the woman was shot multiple times at close range.

The exact nature of their current relationship was not immediately clear.

Farmer said the couple did not live together but have five children together. The woman also had two other children.

The ages of the children were not released. They are all fine, authorities said.

Detectives searching Moua's home removed a couple of rifles, a backpack and



Medical personnel comfort each other after being evacuated by Fresno Police at the scene of a shooting at a medical clinic Tuesday, March 31, 2015, in Fresno, Calif.

two evidence bags.

Moua's neighbor Russ Stidson said he was a hardworking roofer who was friendly and outgoing and who would have parties his children attended.



# Asia

## US admiral says China 'creating a great wall of sand' in the sea

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—China is “creating a great wall of sand” through land reclamation in the South China Sea, causing serious concerns about its territorial intentions, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet said Tuesday.

Admiral Harry Harris Jr. told a naval conference in Australia that competing territorial claims by several nations in the South China Sea are “increasing regional tensions and the potential for miscalculation.”

“But what’s really drawing a lot of concern in the here and now is the unprecedented land reclamation currently being conducted by China,” he said.

“China is building artificial land by pumping sand on to live coral reefs—some of them submerged—and paving over them

with concrete. China has now created over 4 square kilometers (1.5 square miles) of artificial landmass,” he said.

Harris said the region is known for its beautiful natural islands, but “in sharp contrast, China is creating a great wall of sand with dredges and bulldozers over the course of months.”

China claims virtually all of the South China Sea. The Philippines and other countries which have territorial disputes with China in the busy sea have been particularly concerned by the land reclamation projects, which have turned a number of previously submerged reefs in the Spratlys archipelago into artificial islands with buildings, runways and wharves. The islands could be used for military and other facilities to bolster China’s territorial claims.

Harris said the pace of China’s construction of artificial islands “raises serious questions about Chinese intentions.”

He said the United States continues to urge all claimants to conform to the 2002 China-ASEAN Declaration of Conduct, in which the parties committed to “exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability.”

“How China proceeds will be a key indicator of whether the region is heading toward confrontation or cooperation,” he said.

The U.S. says it has a national interest in the peaceful resolution of the disputes in a region crucial for world trade. China says its territorial claims have a historical basis and objects to what it considers U.S. meddling.

## World’s oldest person dies at 117

**TOKYO** (AP)—The world’s oldest person has died nearly a month after celebrating her 117th birthday.

Her nursing home says Misao Okawa died of heart failure early Wednesday.

Okawa, born in Osaka on March 5, 1898, was recognized

as the world’s oldest person by Guinness World Records in 2013.

Her Osaka nursing home says she lost her appetite about 10 days ago. She stopped breathing as her grandson and nursing home officials attended.

Okawa, the daughter of

a kimono maker, said at a birthday celebration last month that her life seemed rather short.

Okawa married her husband, Yukio, in 1919, and they had three children—two daughters and a son. She was survived by four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Her husband died in 1931.



In this Feb. 27, 2013 file photo, Japan’s Misao Okawa, then 114, poses with the certificate of the world’s oldest woman, which was presented to her by Guinness World Records Japan Country Manager Erika Ogawa, unseen, at a nursing home in Osaka, western Japan.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### 16 dead in Kashmir floods; storm kills 20 in eastern India

**SRINAGAR, India** (AP)—Rescuers recovered 16 bodies Tuesday from two houses hit by rain-triggered landslides in the Himalayan region of Kashmir, following its second major floods in six months. Elsewhere in India, fierce rain and lightning toppled houses and trees in Bihar state, killing 20 others. Police and volunteers worked around the clock to clear the debris in Laden village in Kashmir’s Budgam

district, police Superintendent Fayaz Ahmed said. In eastern India, the Bihar state government said at least 20 people were killed when heavy downpours and lightning struck parts of the state late Monday.

#### Thousands strike at major shoe factory in Vietnam

**HANOI, Vietnam** (AP)—Thousands of Vietnamese workers at a major footwear factory are on strike for the sixth straight day to protest a social insurance law. Several

thousand workers began the stoppage last Thursday at the compound of the Taiwanese-owned Pou Yuen factory in southern Ho Chi Minh City. There is a heavy police presence. Pou Yuen Vietnam, which employs more than 80,000 workers, is a subsidiary of Pou Chen Group. It makes footwear for companies such as Nike and Adidas. Workers are protesting a new law, which comes into effect next year, requiring them to buy social insurance when they retire instead of getting a one-time payment.

# World

## Buhari wins Nigeria’s election, defeating Goodluck Jonathan

**ABUJA, Nigeria** (AP)—Amid anger over an Islamic insurgency that has claimed thousands of lives, Nigerians threw out the incumbent and elected a 72-year-old former military dictator in a historic transfer of power officially announced early Wednesday following the nation’s most hotly contested election ever.

President Goodluck Jonathan conceded defeat to former Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, paving the way for an unprecedented peaceful transfer of power in Africa’s most populous nation.

“Nobody’s ambition is worth the blood of any Nigerian,” Jonathan said in a televised address to the nation. “I promised the country free and fair elections. I have kept my word.”

It will be the first time in Nigeria’s history that an opposition party has democratically taken control of the country from the ruling party—considered a sign of the West African nation’s maturing young democracy. Jonathan’s party has governed since decades of military dictatorship



Residents celebrate the anticipated victory of Presidential candidate Muhammadu Buhari in Kaduna, Nigeria Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

ended in 1999.

Celebrations erupted throughout Buhari’s strongholds in northern Nigeria and around his campaign headquarters in Abuja. Cars honked and people waved brooms in the air—a symbol of Buhari’s campaign promise to sweep out Nigeria’s endemic corruption.

Buhari was to address a news conference later Wednesday.

Jonathan’s concession came before the final announcement from the Independent Nation-

al Electoral Commission that Buhari had been elected.

Commission chairman At-tahiru Jega said Buhari received 15,424,921 votes to Jonathan’s 12,853,162. He said among 12 trailing candidates the only woman, Remy Sonaiya, received 13,076 votes.

Both candidates satisfied the requirement for a victor to win at least 25 percent of votes in two-thirds of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, Jega said—Buhari in 27 states and Jonathan in 26.

## Lufthansa: Co-pilot disclosed earlier “severe depression”

**FRANKFURT, Germany** (AP)—Lufthansa knew that the co-pilot of the passenger plane that crashed in the French Alps last week had suffered from an episode of “severe depression” before he finished his flight training with the German airline.

The airline said Tuesday that it has found emails that Andreas Lubitz sent to the Lufthansa flight school in 2009 when he resumed his training in Bremen after an interruption of several months.

In them, he informed the school that he had suffered a “previous episode of severe

depression,” which had since subsided.

The airline said Lubitz subsequently passed all medical checks and that it has provided the documents to prosecutors. It declined to make any further comment.

French authorities say voice recordings indicate Lubitz, 27, locked the other pilot out of the cockpit and deliberately crashed the Airbus A320 in the French Alps on March 24. All 150 people aboard Flight 9525 from Barcelona to Dueseldorf died.

The disclosure that Lubitz had told the airline he had suf-

fered from depression before he was hired in September, 2013 at Lufthansa’s budget arm Germanwings is another blow to the company’s reputation. Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr had said that Lubitz passed all tests and had been pronounced fit to fly.

The revelation adds to questions about how much Lufthansa and its insurers will pay in damages for the passengers who died.

It also underlines questions about how thoroughly the aviation industry and government regulators screen pilots for psychological problems.

## Iraqi troops in center of Islamic State-held Tikrit

**TIKRIT, Iraq** (AP)—Iraqi forces battled Islamic State militants holed up in downtown Tikrit, going house to house Tuesday in search of snipers and booby traps, and the prime minister said security forces had reached the heart of the city.

In a statement on Twitter, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the “liberation of Tikrit” and congratulated Iraqi security forces on their “historic milestone.” But an official statement from his office said the troops “hoisted the Iraqi flag” over the Salahuddin provincial headquarters

in Tikrit and are moving to control the entire city.

Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, the commander of the Salahuddin operation, said his forces fighting from the west were still 300 meters (325 yards) from the center of Tikrit.

Extremists from the Islamic State group seized Saddam Hussein’s hometown last summer during its lightning advance across northern and western Iraq. The battle for Tikrit is seen as a key step toward eventually driving the militants out of Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city that is farther north.

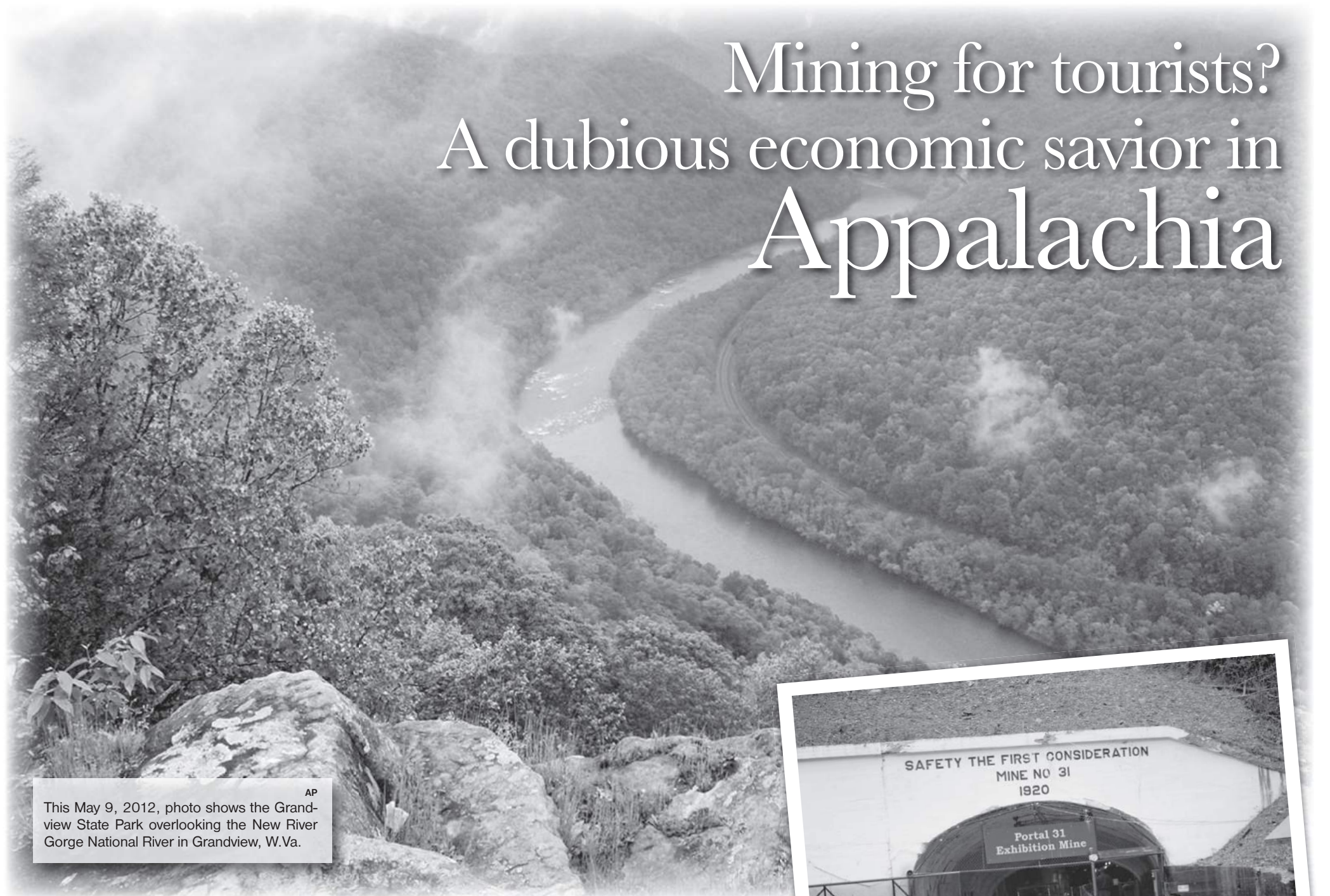
Street-by-street fighting

raged into the afternoon, and estimates differed widely on how much of this strategic city on the banks of the Tigris River that Iraqi forces held. Army Lt. Gen. Talib Shaghathi said at least 75 percent of Tikrit had been recaptured. Ammar Hikmat, deputy governor of Salahuddin province, said more than 40 percent was under Iraqi control.

“Our security forces are now pushing forward toward the presidential complex and have already entered parts of it,” Hikmat said. “I think the whole city will be retaken within the coming 24 hours.”



## Focus

Mining for tourists?  
A dubious economic savior in  
Appalachia

AP  
This May 9, 2012, photo shows the Grandview State Park overlooking the New River Gorge National River in Grandview, W.Va.

By JONATHAN DREW and  
ALLEN G. BREED  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SECO, Ky.** (AP)—Mines built this company town. Jack and Sandra Looney hope vines—the wine grapes growing on a former strip mine in the hills above—will help to draw visitors here.

Their Highland Winery—housed in the lovingly restored “company store”—pays tribute to coal-mining’s history here, as do their signature wines: Blood, Sweat and Tears.

“The Coal Miner’s Blood sells more than any of them,” Jack Looney says of the sweet red.

The couple have converted the store’s second and third floors into a bed and breakfast and restored a couple dozen of the old coal company houses as rentals.

Seco, like so many Central Appalachian communities, owes its existence to coal—its very name is an acronym for South East Coal Company. But as mining wanes, officials across the region are looking for something to replace traditional jobs and revenues.

In some of the poorest, most remote counties, about the only alternative people can come up with is tourism—eco-, adven-

ture, or, as with the Looneys, historical and cultural. There are mining museums, festivals, wilderness adventures. Sub-regions have been rechristened with alluring names like the Hatfield-McCoy Mountains or the PA Wilds.

Proponents point to the region’s assets, its natural beauty, its distinctive mountain character. But others note the paradoxes: Environmental degradation alongside unspoiled areas, a history of poor education that for decades didn’t preclude high-paying jobs, an away-from-it-all feel partly caused by a lack of good roads and other infrastructure.

For all but a lucky few places with both assets and access, recent studies and spending data suggest, tourism may be a dubious savior.

“It’s kind of really odd that economic practitioners push tourism to be a propulsive industry when it has such low wages,” says Suzanne Gallaway, an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Sociologist Rebecca Scott, author of a book on mountaintop removal in her native West Virginia, says that state, the only one wholly included in the government’s definition of Appalachia, is “caught be-

tween the condition of being an extraction economy, a sacrifice zone, and yet having most of its sort of long-term successes in tourism being around nature-based tourism.”

Gallaway, who teaches at UNCG’s Bryan School for Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality, found that while tourism and hospitality accounted for 16 percent of all jobs in the region, those sectors produced just 7 percent of the wages.

“I wouldn’t put all of my eggs in that basket,” she says.

A 2012 report compiled for West Virginia’s Division of Tourism found that spending and hospitality employment have been slow to grow in many counties.

An exception was Harrison County, where direct tourism spending has more than doubled since 2004—to \$142 million—and hospitality employment has increased by more than 50 percent. But those numbers can be deceiving. Many rooms in the area’s hotels are being occupied by workers drilling in the nearby Marcellus shale formation, as coal has been replaced by hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas, says county commission president Ron Watson.

According to the economic report, tourism-related jobs in the Hatfield-McCoy Moun-

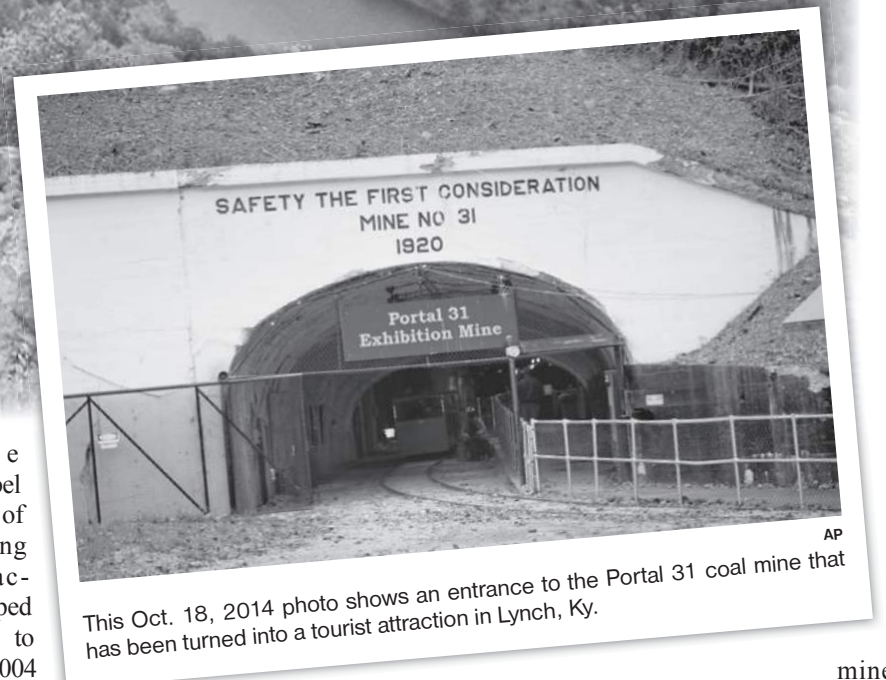
tains—the marketing label for a cluster of coal-producing counties—actually dropped from 1,400 to 1,300 from 2004 to 2012.

Carole Morris, who was head of cultural tourism for the state of Kentucky before opening her own consultancy, says there’s a fine line between squashing initiative and encouraging pipe dreams.

A few years ago, Morris shared a \$100,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant to consult with several “distressed” counties. One of her clients was Forest County, Pennsylvania.

For generations, the county, dominated by the Allegheny National Forest, was a popular vacation destination for blue-collar workers, earning it the nickname “Pittsburgh’s playground.” But as manufacturing waned and tastes changed, Morris found, locals were left with a “tired product.”

A local planning group suggested rebranding the county as a “gateway” to the Lumber Heritage Region and the PA Wilds. The trick, Morris and team wrote in their action plan, was for the county to stay “true



AP  
This Oct. 18, 2014 photo shows an entrance to the Portal 31 coal mine that has been turned into a tourist attraction in Lynch, Ky.

to its heritage of ‘the place to get away from it all,’ and respect its rural roots while moving into the new marketplace for tourism.”

In Kentucky, as environmentalists fight to protect areas not disturbed by mining, some longtime residents are trying to make the most of what the coal industry has left behind.

In its day, Lynch was the largest coal company town in the world. At its height in the 1940s, more than 10,000 people lived there; today, Lynch’s population hovers around 730.

But a mine there, Portal 31, has been given new life. Visitors can ride a miniature train several hundred feet into the hillside as a guide and animated exhibits illustrate mining history. Several company buildings have been restored.

Down the road in Benham, the former company store now houses the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum.

Museum Curator Phyllis Sizemore says the exhibition

mine saw a record number of visitors in July: Just 1,033.

“I don’t look to tourism exactly as a savior,” she says. “I look at education as a savior.”

People like the Looneys know that doing tourism in an out-of-the-way place, especially one that’s been blasted and carved up, is an uphill battle.

When they bought it, the old company store was little more than a shell. They also had to petition for a vote to legalize alcohol sales in “dry” Letcher County. More than a decade after opening, Looney’s construction business is still lending the winery money.

The couple started the venture as a way to keep their daughter in the mountains. She eventually started her own vineyard with her husband in Lexington.

Jack Looney still hasn’t given up on Jean coming back to run things in Seco. If not, then there are always the grandkids.

“Maybe somebody will before I get too old to quit fooling with it.”



# Environment

## Antarctic ice shelves melting 70 percent faster in last decade, study shows

By **GEOFFREY MOHAN**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The frozen fringes of western Antarctica have been melting 70 percent faster in the last decade, raising concern that an important buttress keeping land-based ice sheets from flowing to the sea could collapse or vanish in coming decades, a new study shows.

An acceleration in the flow of massive ice sheets would add substantially to the ongoing rise of sea levels, according to Fernando Paolo, a geophysicist at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and lead author of the study published online Thursday in the journal *Science*.

"They hold back the ice dis-

charge from the ice sheet into the ocean," Paolo said. "In the long term, that is the main concern from losing volume from an ice shelf."

The study adds to growing concern that climate change has altered the equilibrium of growth and melt on a part of the continent holding an estimated 530,000 cubic miles of ice. That's enough ice to raise

the sea level by 11 feet, by some estimates.

"If the rate of change that we have observed remains the same, then we should expect a larger contribution of the ice sheet to sea level rise," Paolo said.

Shelves in the Bellingshausen and Amundsen seas had the most rapid thinning, losing an average of 24 to 63 feet per decade, according to the study,

which analyzed satellite-based radar data from 1994-2012.

The most dramatic loss occurred on the Venable ice shelf on the Bellingshausen Sea, which thinned by an average of 118 feet per decade, according to the study. At that rate, it could disappear in 100 years. The same fate could befall the Crosson shelf on the Amundsen Sea, the study found.

Those rates are conservative "lower bound" estimates, said Paolo.

On the eastern side of Antarctica, previous ice sheet growth has ground to a halt over the last decade, the study showed.

The mechanics behind the changes in the east and west of Antarctica, however, are different, largely because the geology of each is distinct.

## Tiny songbird tracked across vast swaths of ocean

**MONTPELIER, Vermont** (AP)—A tiny songbird that summers in the forests of northern North America has been tracked on a 1,700-mile (2,735-kilometer), over-the-ocean journey from the northeastern United States and eastern Canada to the Caribbean as part of their winter migration to South America, according to a new study.

Scientists had long suspected that the blackpoll warbler had made its journey to the Caribbean over the ocean, but the study that began in the summer of 2013 when scientists attached tracking devices to the birds was the first time that the flight has been proven, according to results published Wednesday in the United Kingdom in the journal *Biology Letters*.

"It is such a spectacular, astounding feat that this half-ounce bird can make what is obviously a perilous, highly risky journey over the open ocean," said Chris Rimmer of the Vermont Center for Ecotudies, one of the authors.

The warblers, known to bulk up by eating insects near their coastal departure points before heading south, are common in parts of North America, but their numbers have been declining. "Now maybe that will help us focus attention on what could be driving these declines," Rimmer said.

Knowing how the blackpoll

warblers migrate helps scientists know more about the implications of changing climate, said Andrew Farnsworth, a research associate at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who specializes in migration biology and was not involved in the study.

"What happens if birds aren't able to fuel sufficiently to make this kind of flight because of habitat fragmentation and habi-

tat loss in New England or the Canadian Maritimes?" Farnsworth said. "How much energy do they need and if they don't get it, what happens?"

A number of bird species fly long distances over water, but the warbler is different because it's a forest dweller. Most other birds that winter in South America fly through Mexico and Central America.

In the summer of 2013, scientists tagged 19 blackpolls on Vermont's Mount Mansfield and 18 in two locations in Nova Scotia. Of those, three were recaptured in Vermont with the tracking device attached and two in Nova Scotia.

Four warblers, including two tagged in Vermont, departed between Sept. 25 and Oct. 21 and flew directly to the islands of His-

paniola or Puerto Rico in flights ranging from 49 to 73 hours. A fifth bird departed Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and flew nearly 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers)

before landing in the Turks and Caicos before continuing on to South America.

On their return journeys north, the birds flew along the coast.



In this May 2014 photo released by the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, a blackpoll warbler sits on a limb in Minnesota.

## US offer for global climate treaty: 28 percent emissions cut

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The United States will offer a roughly 28 percent emissions cut as its contribution to a major global climate treaty nearing the final stages of negotiation, according to people briefed on the White House's plans.

The U.S. plans to announce its commitment Tuesday, the informal deadline for nations to submit their contributions to the United Nations. Although the goal of 26 percent to 28 percent by 2025 isn't new—President Barack Obama first unveiled it last year during a trip to Beijing—the U.S. proposal has drawn intense interest from the vast majority of countries that have yet to announce how deeply they'll pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions as part of the treaty.

Obama's pledge constitutes the opening offer by the U.S. as world leaders strive to reach a climate deal powerful and ambitious enough to prevent the worst effects of climate change. In the works for years, the treaty is set to be finalized in Paris in December. If it's successful, it will mark the first time all nations—not just wealthier ones like the U.S.—will have agreed to do something about climate change.

As part of its proposal, known to climate negotiators as an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, the U.S. will also assert that its contribution is both ambitious and fair, said the individuals briefed on the U.S. proposal, who requested anonymity because the proposal hasn't been announced.

What metrics the U.S. will use to back up that claim is not yet clear. The European Union, one of the first parties to submit its contribution, pointed to per capita reductions in emissions to show how it is cutting its carbon footprint. But emissions per capita are far higher in the U.S., making it an inconvenient measure for the U.S. to use to show progress.

Instead, the U.S. is expected to focus on the fact that the Obama administration has ramped up the rate of emissions reductions nearly twofold. Early in his presidency, Obama committed to cut U.S. emissions 17 percent by 2020; his subsequent goal for 2025 pushes it to 28 percent.

The White House declined to comment.

The U.S. and other developed countries have been aggressively pressing developing nations to step up on climate change—especially those like China and India that are heavily reliant on dirtier sources of energy. Obama has described his strategy as "leading by example" and has sought to use the steps he's already taken to cut emissions to ramp up pressure on other countries to do the same.

But poorer countries have balked, arguing their more modest means make reductions more of an imposition and pointing out that historically, they're responsible for just a small fraction of the heat-trapping gases that industrialized countries have been pumping into the atmosphere for decades. So when Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping both committed to curbing emissions in a joint announcement in November, environmentalists hailed it as a sign that reluctant nations like China were finally getting on board.

"People know that domestically, we're moving forward," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy said Monday at a luncheon hosted by Politico. She pointed to the U.S.-China pact as Exhibit A. "If the two biggest polluters and the two biggest greenhouse gas polluters can get together, and two biggest economies, then we're going to be OK moving into Paris, and we should have momentum behind our backs."

## Renewable energy investment heats up worldwide

By **SAMANTHA MASUNAGA**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

From China to Mexico, renewable energy investments are hot.

Global investment in renewable power and fuels reached \$270.2 billion last year, nearly 17 percent higher than in 2013, according to a new study on renewable energy investment from the United Nations Environment Programme.

This figure marks the first increase in three years. Together, wind, solar, biomass and waste-to-power, geothermal, small hydro and marine power are estimated to have generated 9.1 percent of the world's electricity in 2014, compared

to 8.5 percent in 2013.

China led the pack as the location of the biggest renewable energy investments last year, with \$83.3 billion, followed by the U.S. at \$38.3 billion and then Japan with \$35.7 billion.

While solar installation boomed in China and Japan, and offshore wind projects in Europe garnered \$18.6 billion, some of the most notable renewable investment increases came from developing countries.

The total investment in these markets was \$131.3 billion in 2014, up 36 percent from the previous year. Indonesia, Chile, Mexico, Kenya, South Africa and Turkey were in the "billion-dollar-plus club" in

renewables investments, according to the study. Countries like Jordan, Uruguay, Panama, the Philippines and Myanmar were in the \$500 million to \$1 billion range.

Solar and wind technology are king among renewable energy sources, with solar investment up 29 percent to \$149.6 billion and wind advancing 11 percent to a record \$99.5 billion.

In contrast, biofuels slipped 8 percent to \$5.1 billion, marking a 10-year low, and despite geothermal managing a 23 percent increase, the total is only \$2.7 billion.

The study was a joint project with the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre for

Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance and Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Looking ahead, the study said the oil price collapse in the second half of 2014 initially seemed to be the greatest challenge to the renewable energy industry.

But though the oil price was "likely to dampen" investor confidence in some areas, like solar in oil-exporting countries, "oil and renewables do not compete for power investment dollars," the study said.

"Wind and solar sectors should be able to carry on flourishing, particularly if they continue to cut costs" per megawatt-hour, the study said.



## Life & Style

# Trevor Noah defends self in backlash to old tweets

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Trevor Noah, the newly announced host of “The Daily Show,” rejected the backlash over his graphic tweets targeting Jews and women as an unfair reflection of him and his comedy.

“To reduce my views to a handful of jokes that didn’t land is not a true reflection of my character, nor my evolution as a comedian,” Noah posted Tuesday on his Twitter account, the same one that included past tweets others deemed offensive.

Comedy Central also came to his defense, calling Noah a “provocative” comedian who “spares no one, himself included.”

“To judge him or his comedy based on a handful of jokes is unfair,” the network said in a statement, adding that he has “a bright future at Comedy Central.”

Noah was announced as Jon Stewart’s successor Monday. The next day, he was a trending topic on Twitter as he drew fire for jokes described as tasteless, hateful—and unfunny.

Roseanne Barr was among those calling out the 31-year-old South African comic, who has an international following and 2 million Twitter followers.

“U should cease sexist & anti semitic ‘humor’ about jewish women & Israel,” she tweeted late Monday.

Noah’s controversial tweets were posted between 2009 and 2014.

In 2009 he wrote: “Almost bumped a Jewish kid crossing the road. He didn’t look b4 crossing but I still would have felt so bad in my german car!”

A 2012 post derides “jewish chicks.” Another one from 2011 jokes about “a hot white woman.”

In a post from 2011, he writes: “Oh yeah the weekend. People are gonna get drunk & think that I’m sexy!” He attributes the joke to “fat chicks everywhere.”

He also slammed the United States’ midsection in a 2013 tweet, writing that “When flying over the middle of America the turbulence is so bad. It’s like all the ignorance is rising through the air.”

The tweets showed a different side to Noah than the picture painted by Comedy Central and the comedian himself just a day earlier. In a phone interview Monday from Dubai, where Noah was traveling on a comedy tour, he likened himself to the New York-born Stewart, saying, “One thing we both share: We are both progressives.” He added, “traveling the world I’ve learned that progres-



In this photo taken Oct. 27 2009 South African comedian Trevor Noah is photographed during an interview. <sup>AP</sup>

sives, regardless of their locations, think in a global space.”

Noah, the son of a black South African mother and white

European father who speaks six languages, was being pitched by Comedy Central as reflecting a new age of global multicultural-

ism, “a citizen of the world,” in the words of Michele Ganeless, the network’s president.

He was named a little more

than a month after Stewart unexpectedly announced he was leaving “The Daily Show” following 16 years as the show’s principal voice. Although no dates have been disclosed, Stewart is expected to depart by the end of the year, with Noah taking over soon afterward.

On Monday, Ganeless spoke of the advantage of introducing Noah to a mainstream U.S. audience through “The Daily Show,” with viewers coming to the show he hosts with no preconceptions. “They will get to discover him, and form their opinions of him, as they watch him host.”

But by Tuesday, some opinions were already forming. Weighing in on Noah’s selection, a Slate column compared his vetting to that of Sarah Palin as a running mate for presidential candidate John McCain.

The choice of a new host for “The Daily Show” is a critical decision not only for the satirical-news program, but for the network, whose identity has largely been forged by the “Daily Show” franchise, which for years was followed by the likewise signature “The Colbert Report.”

By the end of this year, Comedy Central will have completely remade this programming block. In January, African-American comic Larry Wilmore replaced the “The Colbert Report” hosting “The Nightly Show.”

## Who’s who in music streaming: Tidal, Spotify, Pandora & more

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Since Apple shook up the music world with iTunes a little more than a decade ago, online music has exploded and become the central way many people enjoy and discover music. Internet services such as Pandora and Spotify have millions of users. Now, several high-profile musicians are behind what’s being billed as the first artist-owned music-streaming service.

Tidal isn’t new, but it’s getting a reboot from rapper Jay-Z, who bought the Scandinavian company behind it, Aspiro. Madonna, Rihanna and Beyonce are among the co-owners. That’s notable because many artists complain about how little payment they get from other music services, such as Spotify. As owners, artists could insist on better deals.

There are now three main ways to get music, and many services offer a blend:

- Pay per song. Apple’s iTunes has made it easy to buy singles or albums. Many artists release new albums early through iTunes. Google and Amazon now compete, but the premise remains the same: Buy songs or albums to own forever.

- Unlimited listening. For a monthly subscription of about



In this Jan. 6, 2015 photo, a model wears SMS Audio BioSport In-Ear Headphones at the Intel booth during the International CES, in Las Vegas. <sup>AP</sup>

\$10, you can listen to as many songs as you want on a variety of personal computers, phones, tablets and other devices. Many also let you download songs for offline playback. Once you stop paying, though, you lose all your songs, even ones you’ve already downloaded. Some offer free versions with ads and other restrictions, such as song selection only on PCs.

- Internet radio. You can’t choose specific songs or artists,

as you can with the unlimited-listening services. But you can fine-tune your Internet stations by specifying a song, artist, genre or playlist. The station will then stream songs similar to your choices. You can personalize stations further by giving thumbs up or thumbs down to songs you hear.

Music services typically have deals with all major recording companies, so they differ mainly in features rather than song selec-

tion. That said, Taylor Swift took her music off Spotify last fall in a dispute over fees. All but her most recent album are on Tidal, Rdio and Beats.

Here’s a look at who’s who in music streaming.

### SPOTIFY

One of the most popular music services, with 60 million active users worldwide, and a quarter of them paying subscribers. Just this week, Spotify launched an app on Sony’s PlayStation game

console. The two companies worked closely to make listening seamless, so music can be heard in the background while playing games, without losing the game’s sound effects, for instance. Spotify offers unlimited listening and Internet radio. It’s free with ads; on mobile devices, users are limited to Internet radio and can’t choose songs. Paying \$10 a month gets you an ad-free premium service that offers song selection and offline playback on mobile devices.

### PANDORA

Offers Internet radio only. More than 81 million active listeners. Free with ads, or pay \$5 a month for an ad-free premium service and higher-quality audio over Web browsers.

### TIDAL

Unlimited listening. Among the few services offering high-fidelity songs, which many audiophiles prefer over MP3s and other formats that reduce quality in the compression process. Offers music video and curated playlists from experts. \$10 a month for standard sound quality and \$20 for high fidelity. There’s no free offering.

### APPLE

Pay per song to download and own forever through iTunes. Free Internet radio through

iTunes Radio on Apple devices. Also owns Beats Music, which offers unlimited listening for \$10 a month, with no free version. Beats touts its playlists and other recommendations curated by experts, not computers.

### GOOGLE

Pay per song through Google Play. Google Play Music service offers unlimited listening for \$10 a month, with no free option. Google also offers YouTube Music Key for selected music videos, free of ads, for \$10. Paying for one gets you the other, too.

### AMAZON

Pay-per-song offering. Amazon’s \$99-a-year Prime membership comes with unlimited listening, though the song selection isn’t as broad as what rivals offer.

### SAMSUNG’S MILK MUSIC

Offers free Internet radio like Pandora and others, but tries to make it easier to find music to match your mood. Instead of typing in songs or artists to find matching stations, you spin an on-screen wheel to go through various genres until you land on something you like. Initially exclusive to Samsung TVs and mobile devices, there’s now a Web player for personal computers.



# Pssst: Don Draper doesn't really write those 'Mad Men' ads

By **FRAZIER MOORE**  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Matthew Weiner is no “mad man.” He’s never worked in advertising. But as the creator of “Mad Men,” AMC’s drama series about advertising in 1960s-era New York City, he’s cooked up more than a few advertisements.

Lucky Strike cigarettes, Kodak Carousel slide projectors, Burger Chef, London Fog raincoats: These vintage products are part of the culture of “Mad Men,” which let its audience experience them anew through the ads brainstormed by advertising whiz Don Draper and his colleagues—ads that in truth were conceived by Weiner with his fellow “Mad Men” writers as they fashioned each script.

“The advertising was always reverse-engineered to serve the theme of the story,” Weiner explained as “Mad Men” neared its final seven-episode run (Sunday at 10 p.m. EDT).

Just think of Season 5’s Jaguar account. It was landed only after the agency loaned sexy office manager Joan Harris to the lecherous Jaguar client for a night.

The accompanying tagline Weiner devised: “Jaguar. Fi-



**AP**  
In this image released by AMC, Christina Hendricks, portraying Joan Harris, left, and Jon Hamm portraying Don Draper appear in a scene from the fifth season of “Mad Men.”

nally something beautiful you can own,” which echoed the action: For a night, the client could imagine he owned Joan.

Even so, the two former real-life ad men in the “Mad Men” writers’ room shouted Weiner down.

“They said, ‘That’s a terrible ad!’ They said people who can buy a Jaguar can own LOTS of

beautiful things: ‘So what’s the difference here?’”

The difference they came up with was to add this one word: truly.

“We made the ad ‘Finally something beautiful you can truly own.’ The idea was you can possess this in many ways beyond the literal purchase.” It served as a great way to frame

the story’s subtext, never mind that it wasn’t necessarily a great ad.

“I’m not sure that, even with ‘truly’ in the tagline, it would have passed muster at a real agency,” Weiner conceded. “But fortunately, that doesn’t matter when you’re creating both the pitch AND the client’s response to it.”

## ‘General Hospital’ leads Daytime Emmy nominations

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC’s “General Hospital” earned a leading 28 nominations for Daytime Emmy awards, with four of its stars competing for honors as top actor or actress.

Nominations were announced Tuesday for the 42nd annual awards. The ceremony will be held on the Warner Bros. studio lot in Burbank, Calif., on April 26, televised on the Pop network.

The other top soap operas, “The Young and the Restless” (25 nominations); “The Bold and the Beautiful” (19 nominations) and “Days of Our Lives” (16 nominations) were

the other shows with the most potential trophies.

“Sesame Street” earned 13 nominations and “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” had 10.

CBS’ “The Bold and the Beautiful” and “The Young and the Restless” and NBC’s “Days of Our Lives” joined “General Hospital” among the nominees for best soap opera.

Best actress nominees for daytime drama were Peggy McCay and Alison Sweeney of “Days of Our Lives,” Maura West and Laura Wright of “General Hospital” and Gina Tognoni of “The Young and the Restless.”

Best actor nominees for a

soap were Anthony Geary and Jason Thompson of “General Hospital” and Christian LeBlanc and Billy Miller of “The Young and the Restless.”

Nominees for supporting actress are Linsey Godfrey of “The Bold and the Beautiful,” Amelia Heinle and Elizabeth Hendrickson of “The Young and the Restless” and Finola Hughes and Lisa Locicero of “General Hospital.”

Supporting actor nominees are Scott Clifton and Jacob Young of “The Bold and the Beautiful,” Chad Duell of “General Hospital,” and Kristoff St. John of “The Young and

the Restless.”

Nominees for best game show were “Family Feud” (syndicated), “Jeopardy!” (syndicated) and “The Price is Right” (CBS).

Nominees for best informative talk show were ABC’s “The Chew,” “The Dr. Oz Show” (syndicated), “The Kitchen” (Food Network) and “Steve Harvey” (syndicated).

Nominees for best entertainment talk show were “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” (syndicated), “Live! With Kelly and Michael” (syndicated), “The Talk” (CBS), and “The Wendy Williams Show” (syndicated).

## Broadway’s ‘Honeymoon in Vegas’ will close this Sunday

NEW YORK (AP)—The honeymoon between “Honeymoon in Vegas” and Broadway is over. Even Elvis couldn’t save them.

Producers said Tuesday that the musical starring Tony Danza, Rob McClure and Brynn O’Malley will close Sunday after good reviews but dismal box office receipts.

The show was adapted from a 1992 movie starring James Caan, Nicolas Cage and Sarah Jessica Parker. It has music

by Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown and tells the story of a reluctant groom whose bride-to-be is courted by a Vegas wise guy. One of the highlights is a troupe of glittery flying Elvises.

The show has been limping along ever since it opened in January. It never took in more than \$500,000 despite having a \$1.1 million potential and lately only half-filled the Nederlander Theatre.

## Loving stepfather teaches wife how to accept gay son

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 91-year-old reader with a story to tell. In 1958, I married a man every woman would have loved to have. He was one of a kind. I had two boys from a previous marriage, and this wonderful man adopted them.

In 1963, before homosexuality was understood or openly accepted, I discovered that my oldest son was gay. I didn’t take it well because of the way I was raised. In fact, I came unglued. My husband took me in his arms and said, “Honey, he is no different today than he was yesterday.”

The rest is a long story, but this wonderful man—a stepfather—gave acceptance to his son and taught it to me. His words helped me to value my own son as the person he is. If his words can help some other parent, I am passing them on.

EVER GRATEFUL MOTHER, SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

**DEAR GRATEFUL MOTHER:** You married a wise and compassionate man, and I want to thank you for sharing an important message for other parents of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning children.

**DEAR ABBY:** I’m an alcoholic. My husband blames it for ev-

erything that goes wrong in our lives. Not invited to a coveted party? They must have heard what an ass I made of myself four years ago.

I love my husband and don’t want to leave him. However, he is blind to the similarities to his overeating and smoking. I’m at my wit’s end. He refuses to see, while pointing out to our friends that I’m not supposed to drink, that I could be as nasty as he is and say things like, “You’re not supposed to smoke,” or, “You’re overweight and shouldn’t eat that.”

I’m sick of being humiliated and tired of feeling like I owe him something because he “overlooks” me being an alcoholic. How can I get him to see that these things are all addictions and hard to kick, and he should quit looking down his nose at me?

HUMILIATED IN TEXAS

**DEAR HUMILIATED:** Your letter proves the truth of the saying that alcoholism is a “family disease.” The more your husband draws attention to your alcohol problem, the less he is forced to confront his own addictions to food and tobacco, and it also serves as a distraction. It’s comfortable for him, allows him to feel superior and benefits

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**him because it makes him an object of sympathy. This is neither helpful nor healthy for either of you.**

**I have said many times that you cannot change another person. However, a licensed mental health professional may be able to help you understand why you tolerate your husband’s behavior -- and might even be able to give you insight into why you drink the way you do.**

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



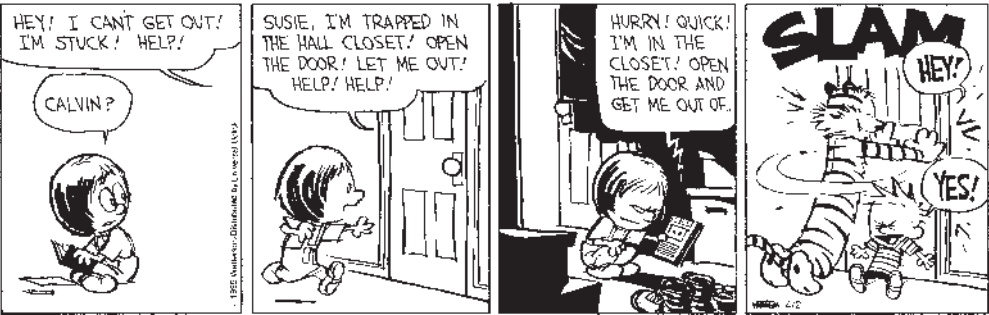
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

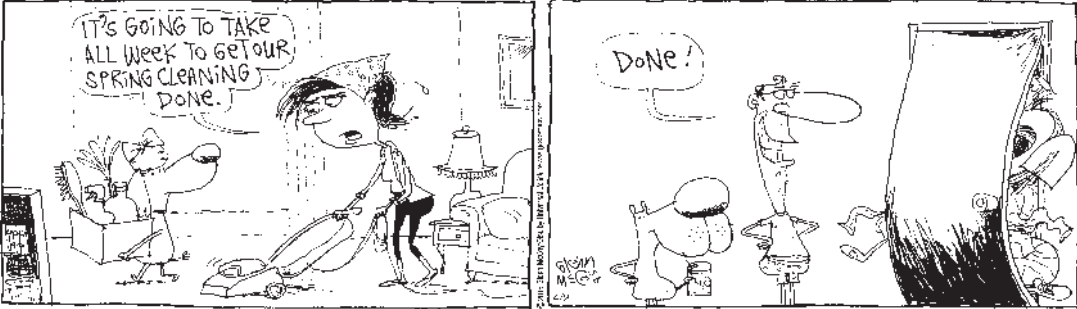
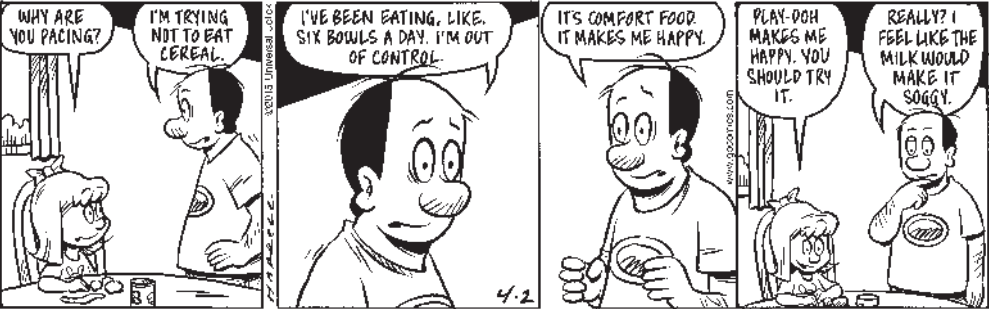


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



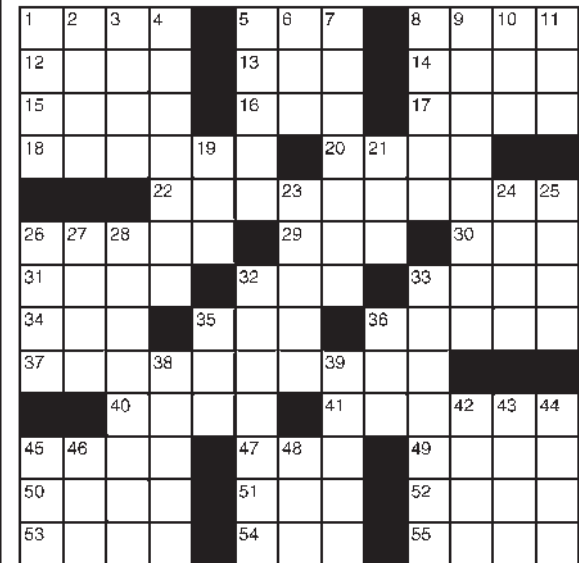
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Satan's minions 5 Portion of N.A. 8 Relinquish 12 "Arrivederci" 13 Island souvenir 14 Graph line 15 Vivacity 16 Pitch 17 Supermarket supply 18 Constant sufferer 20 Do laps in the pool 22 Irreligiousness 26 Pivots 29 Plagiarize 30 "The Matrix" role 31 Round of applause 32 "Holy mackerel!" 33 Cribbage scorers

DOWN 19 "Indeed" 21 Symbol of intrigue 23 Folklore figure 24 Video game name 25 Velvety forest growth 26 Writer Silverstein 27 Huron, for one 28 Like a first draft 32 Combat area 33 Didactic 35 "Golly!" 36 Pismire 38 Travelocity mascot 39 Cruise stops 42 Grimace 43 Napoleon's exile site 44 Doggerel 45 Energy 46 Greek H 48 Marry

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Fassbender, 38; Christopher Meloni, 54; Emmylou Harris, 68; Linda Hunt, 70.

Happy Birthday: Your charm will help you build solid relationships with colleagues and peers. The way you present who you are and what you can do will make people around you take note and find ways to utilize your talents in a positive and prosperous manner. You can get ahead if you search for positions that fit in with future trends. Your numbers are 4, 14, 19, 23, 32, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look the part and go after what you want. Show confidence in all that you do and you will impress the people who can help you get ahead. Don't give up, just make the adjustments necessary to advance. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Let your experience lead the way. Recall similar situations and apply what you know in order to avoid past mistakes. Self-improvement projects will boost your confidence and attract positive attention. Romance will help a relationship that means a lot to you. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Jump into the spotlight. Helping others will give you the chance to show off your skills and meet people who can improve your life. Don't let any manipulative tactics deter you from doing what you want to do. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't rush in to anything that could jeopardize your position or reputation. If you make assumptions, you will be disappointed. Concentrate

on helping others or making your home more inviting and comfortable. Your surroundings should ease your stress, not add to it. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make your move and you will outmaneuver someone who is trying to make you look bad. Don't get angry—take action. It's what you accomplish that will put you in a good position. Travel and communication will lead to success. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do what you do best and don't worry about what everyone else is doing. Follow your heart when it comes to personal improvements as well as your relationship with someone special. Trust your intuition and let your emotions lead the way. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep the peace and make a point to compromise with others. It's in your best interest to keep spending down and to listen to sound advice regarding financial, legal or medical matters. Bide your time and take mental notes. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a chance and do something totally out of the ordinary. Let your creative imagination and unique approach to life lead the way. A job offer might not be presented honestly. Get what you want in writing. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can accomplish plenty if you don't let your emotions come between you and your common sense. Concentrate on what you can do to improve your home, lifestyle and standard of living. There is money to be made if you invest wisely. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let the changes going on around you upset your plans. You'll be disappointed if you let someone else take care of your responsibilities. Finish your chores and concentrate on yourself and the ones you love. ★★★★★

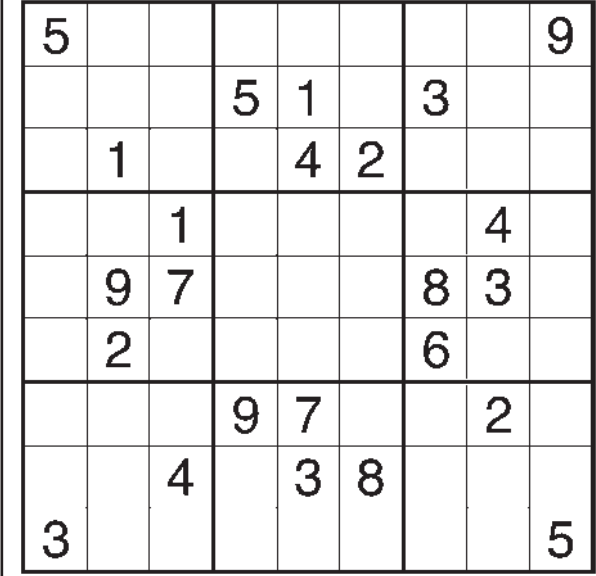
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are overdue for a change. Consider your talents and do what you can to turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative venture. A chance to form a partnership with someone equally as talented as you will pay off. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pick up the slack. If someone thinks you are being lazy, you will be criticized. Problems will surface if you depend on someone to do things for you. A realistic and honest appraisal of your situation will be necessary. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are progressive, dynamic and insightful. You are charismatic and outgoing.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

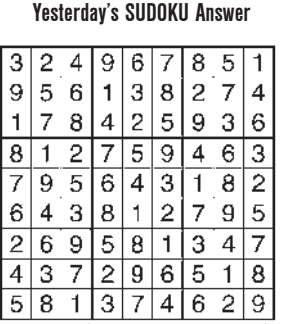
SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/02

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BRIE CHEESE, PLEASE Solution: 5 letters

DTYHTRA EHMARNED  
AEAMIBACTERIARG  
EEZNA INYRETTUBR  
RWDIGENRXWICPMA  
PSCERYRGOU SHARP  
SYHFKUCCRUAM LIE  
TSAFKAERBENE EFS  
RELSSLBT O L D M L W  
AEKELAYT SUMISHT  
WHYAGILHTALFE EG  
ECDREDICTS MPENNE  
DFDNRIHEEF LNOUT  
GIRIRIILDDERITI  
ENPNWNNUESRTHRTH  
NETAENRUOSOFTYW

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Aged, Artisan, Bacteria, Baked, Breakfast, Buttery, Case, Cellar, Chalky, Cheesy, Cider, Cow, Creamy, Curd, Earthy, Eaten, Fine, Firm, Flat, French, Grapes, Ingredient, Marne, Meaux, Melt, Melon, Musty, Noir, Nutty, Old, Pale, Pasteurized, Raw, Rennet, Rich, Rind, Ripe, Rounds, Salted, Seine, Sharp, Sliced, Soft, Sour, Spread, Strong, Sweet, Tangy, Thin, Wedge, Wheel, White, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Friends

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# Spurs pull away from Heat for 95-81 win

**MIAMI** (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 22 points, Tony Parker added 16 in his 1,000th NBA game, and the San Antonio Spurs added more steam to their playoff push by beating the Miami Heat 95-81 on Tuesday night.

Tim Duncan had 12 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio, which went 12-3 in March - the league's second-best record during the month behind only Golden State. Boris Diaw scored 11 points.

Goran Dragic had 19 points and Dwyane Wade added 15 for Miami. Hassan Whiteside and Mario Chalmers each had 10 points, and Chris Andersen grabbed 10 rebounds.

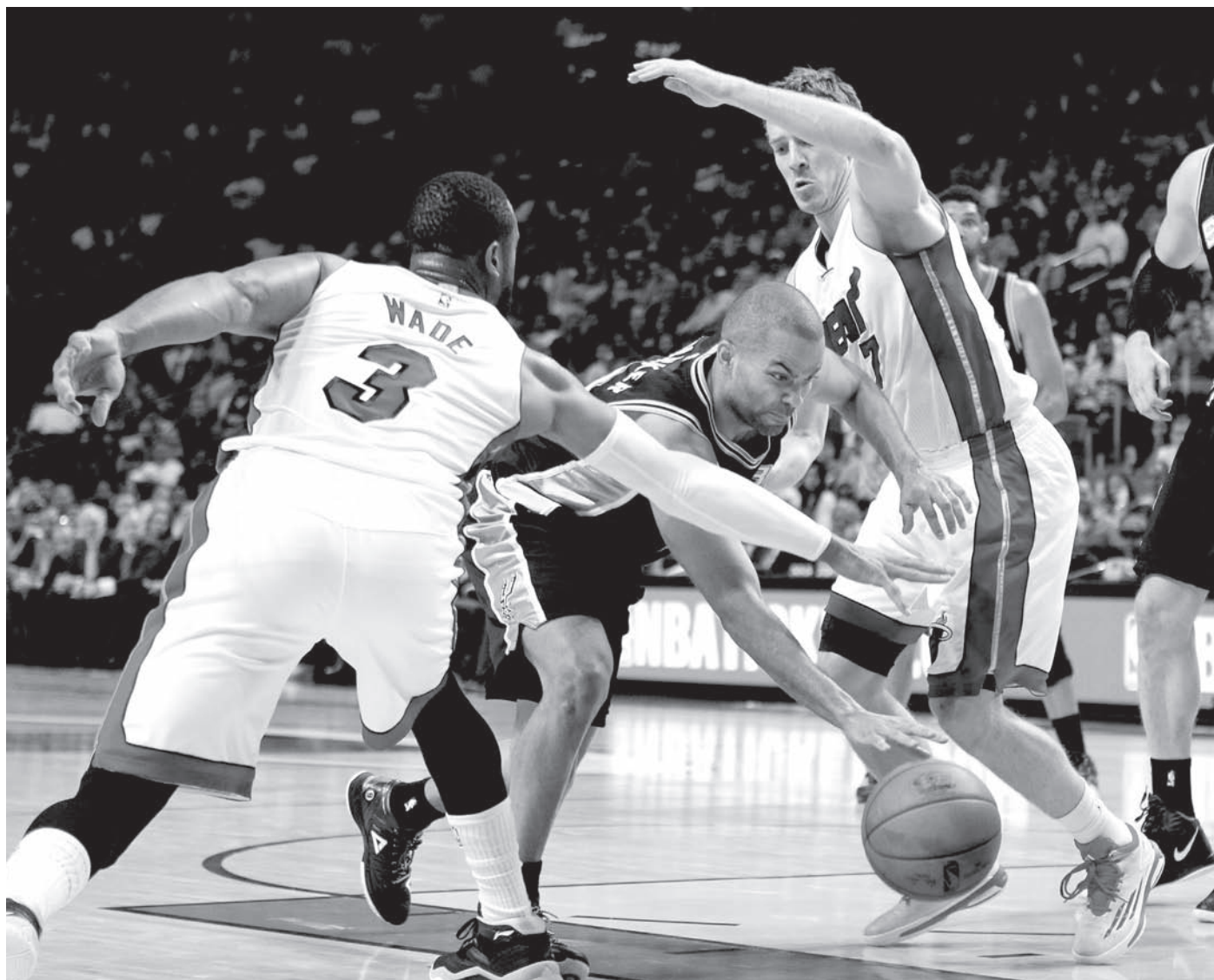
San Antonio stayed No. 6 in the West, and could clinch a playoff berth Wednesday in Orlando.

The Heat remained in the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference race but now are two losses behind No. 6 Milwaukee (which also owns the tiebreaker over Miami if necessary) and only a half-game up on Brooklyn, which climbed into the No. 8 spot with a win over Indiana earlier Tuesday.

It was still a game at the half, with Miami down just 47-42. But the Spurs pulled away after the break, going up by as many as 15 in the third and then stretching it out to 21 in the fourth.

Miami closed to 85-75 on a putback by Andersen with 3:32 left, but Parker hit a floater from the right baseline on the ensuing San Antonio possession and the rally try was quickly snuffed out.

San Antonio is now two wins away from its 16th consecutive 50-win season, with eight



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, center, drives between Miami Heat defenders Dwyane Wade and Goran Dragic in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 31, 2015, in Miami. The Spurs won the game, 95-81.

games remaining. The last time the Spurs didn't win 50 was 1998-99, when they had a good excuse - that was only a 50-game season.

Miami started cold but scored 12 points in the final 4:16 of the opening quarter to take a 20-19 lead going into the second, the first time the Spurs trailed after the first period in seven games.

The Heat used only nine players, with their roster still depleted by illness and in-

jury and forcing Miami into a team-record-tying 30th starting lineup of the season. Whiteside returned after missing three games with a hand laceration and, wearing a brace of sorts to protect the still-healing wound, shot 5 for 7.

## Nets 111, Pacers 106

In New York, Brook Lopez had 24 points and 11 rebounds, and the Brooklyn Nets reclaimed sole possession of eighth place in the Eastern

Conference by beating the Indiana Pacers 111-106 on Tuesday night for their season-high fourth straight victory.

The Nets moved back ahead of Boston and dealt a blow to the Pacers, who fell 1 1/2 games behind Brooklyn. They will visit the Celtics on Wednesday.

Joe Johnson added 21 points, including five straight after the Pacers got within three with about 2 minutes left. Alan Anderson scored 20.

Brooklyn won for the sixth time in seven games and claimed the tiebreaker with

## Woods played practice round at Augusta

**AUGUSTA, Ga.** (AP)—Tiger



Woods played a practice round Tuesday at Augusta National, a strong indication that the four-time champion could make his return at the Masters.

Mark Steinberg, his agent at Excel Sports Management, confirmed in an email to The Associated Press that Woods played 18 holes.

Still to be determined is whether he returns for the Masters next week.

Woods has not played since he withdrew at Torrey Pines on Feb. 5 after 11 holes because of tightness in his back during a chilly, fog-delayed opening round. A week later, he said he would return to competition when he had the game for it.

"My play, and scores, are not acceptable for tournament golf," Woods said in a statement Feb. 11. "Like I've said, I enter a tournament to compete at the highest level, and when I think I'm ready, I'll be back."

He has missed the Honda Classic and Arnold Palmer Invitational - he was not eligible for Doral this year— since the statement. There have been second- and third-hand reports that Woods has been practicing near his home in south Florida.

Indiana by winning the season series.

George Hill scored 28 points for the Pacers, who lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

It was a disappointing start to a crucial week for the Pacers, who also are home for games against Charlotte and Miami on Friday and Sunday. Coach Frank Vogel compared it to the NCAA Tournament, saying that "if you win, you knock off a team, and if you lose, you go home."

The Pacers aren't going home yet, but the Nets made it tougher for them to go to the playoffs.

## Pistons 105, Hawks 95

In Auburn Hills, Andre Drummond had 22 points and 13 rebounds, powering Detroit to the victory.

Anthony Tolliver had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons (29-45), who have won five of six. Reggie Jackson collected 12 points and 11 assists despite being limited to four-minute stints in each of the last three quarters by an illness.

Tolliver made his eighth consecutive start in place of Greg Monroe, who is out with a right knee injury.

Thabo Sefolosha scored 19 points for Atlanta, while Al Horford had 16 on 8-of-11 shooting.

The Hawks (56-19), who have clinched the Eastern Conference's top seed for the playoffs, have dropped two of three.

Woods could make an announcement about his Masters plans this week, though it is not necessary. Unlike a regular PGA Tour event, players with a Masters invitation only have to register before they tee off in the opening round on April 9. It would be unlike Woods to do that. Instead, he likely would inform the club of his plans before Sunday.

Woods played in the 2010 Masters without having competed in nearly five months. He tied for fourth that year, though he was No. 1 in the world and his previous tournament was a victory in the Australian Masters.

He now has dropped to No. 104, his lowest ranking since September 1996 a week before his first pro victory. He has not recorded a top-10 finish since the end of 2013. And his limited golf this year has been the worst of his career. Woods shot 82 in the Phoenix Open when he missed the cut. He hit standard chips that didn't reach the green or sailed 30 yards long during the 47 holes he has played this year.

The Augusta Chronicle first reported that Woods was in town after a plane matching the tail number of his Gulfstream G5 was parked at the terminal for private aircraft at Augusta Regional Airport.

## Florida State's Winston shows off for NFL coaches, GMs



**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** (AP)—Jameis Winston dodged brooms and blocking pads. He threw over outstretched arms and tennis rackets. He completed passes from the pocket and on the run.

Even when it was time for a brief break during Florida State's pro day Tuesday, Winston grabbed the water bottles and served his teammates.

No doubt, Winston put on quite a show for NFL coaches, general managers and scouts.

The Seminoles star threw passes for nearly an hour, demonstrating arm strength, accuracy and stamina while drawing cheers from the hundreds on hand.

His next public workout might be as the top pick in the NFL draft.

Winston sent a strong message—literally—that he should

be the first player taken in next month's draft. Asked why Tampa Bay should select him, Winston didn't hesitate to respond.

"Because I'm the best player in this draft," he said.

It would be hard to argue after his 55-minute passing session Tuesday that only solidified what NFL teams have seen from Winston the last two years as Florida State's starter.

Winston completed 91 of 102 passes, with at least half of the incompletions being drops. Of course, the routes didn't include defenders, but executives were more concerned with little details that typically go unnoticed to untrained eyes.

"It was very good, excellent. He had a great day," Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht said. "He threw a full nine innings. It looked good."

Licht said Winston was in better shape than he was at the NFL combine, which should al-

leviate any concerns that may have arose after those unflattering photos of Winston's gut circulated on the Internet and on social media sites.

"I think that maybe puts a little water on that, puts that fire out," said Licht, part of a big Bucs contingent that included coach Lovie Smith and offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter.

Licht said Winston's conditioning, leadership and arm strength stood out at Florida State's indoor practice facility.

"That was pretty impressive," he said. "I'm sure it's bittersweet for the coaching staff here at Florida State to watch him today."

It wasn't just Winston, either. Defensive tackle Eddie Goldman, defensive end Mario Edwards Jr., versatile offensive lineman Cameron Erving and cornerbacks Ronald Darby and P.J. Williams also proved to be worthy of early round picks.

Nonetheless, Winston got

most of the attention.

He announced in January he was entering the NFL draft, leaving behind a tumultuous college career that included a lengthy sexual assault investigation. He met with teams at the combine and met with the Tennessee Titans, who have the No. 2 pick in the draft, following his pro day Tuesday. Titans coach Ken Whisenhunt declined interview requests. So did New Orleans coach Sean Payton.

Winston was scheduled to hold a private workout for Tampa Bay next week in Tallahassee.

"It's been a huge job interview, and I've loved it," said Winston, who played baseball at FSU the last two springs. "This is the first time I've been able to be a quarterback year-round. This is the first time I've been able to just sit and talk to another man eye to eye about what they may think about me or about what I might do."



# Kentucky's system gives way to traditional rotation

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—



John Calipari's platoon system has given way to a nine-man rotation that gives the Kentucky coach plenty of combinations.

Who plays and how long hasn't mattered to the top-ranked Wildcats.

Platooning has been replaced by the immediate challenge of winning the school's ninth championship and remaining undefeated along the way.

The egos that were checked early have remained on the shelf during the NCAA Tournament as Calipari has let the flow of the game dictate his substitution strategy.

"That's what makes him such a good coach," reserve 7-footer Dakari Johnson said Tuesday of Calipari. "He knows what's best for us. He's going to do everything for the team to win. He's going to put the guys in there that are going to battle and just compete."

The challenge for Wisconsin at this weekend's Final Four in Indianapolis is figuring out which combination they'll face from Kentucky, which can play small, in half-court sets or up-tempo.

The Wildcats and Badgers met in last year's Final Four with Kentucky advancing behind an exciting 74-73 victory. This Kentucky squad is even deeper.

Calipari began the season able to go 10-deep with his roster, so platooning gave him a way to give everyone enough minutes to be happy and win games. Rotating players in and out has just given him more options - and helped the Wildcats stay unbeaten at 38-0.

"We coach every player on



Kentucky head coach John Calipari answers questions during his news conference at the NCAA men's basketball tournament Friday, March 27, 2015, in Cleveland.

this team like they're a starter," Calipari said. "There's no one coached—we don't have subs. I've said that statement before. We have reinforcements. We've got them and you look up and there's about 12 tanks coming over the hill. ... That's what we've been doing."

Kentucky played the season's first few weeks with

Calipari replacing his entire starting lineup after about five minutes into the game, sooner if he wasn't getting the results or energy he wanted. Calipari has also platooned against weaker schools, beginning both halves with the approach.

A season-ending knee injury to junior forward Alex Poythress in December thrust

6-foot-10 Trey Lyles into the starting lineup, changing substitutions to whatever the matchup or situation demanded.

And in the NCAA Tournament, the combinations have worked for Kentucky.

There have been times where the Wildcats have featured a three-guard lineup with 6-6 twins Andrew and Aaron Harri-

son and 5-9 Tyler Ulis together in the backcourt, or some two-guard combination of those three along with shooter Devin Booker. Kentucky has also gone to their big-man lineup, pairing Johnson and fellow 7-footer Willie Cauley-Stein for short stints, and blended them with 6-11 Karl-Anthony Towns, 6-9 Marcus Lee and Lyles in two- or

three-man sets.

"He doesn't get enough credit for his coaching," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "For all the pluses of knowing that maybe you got better talent than most teams, you also got other issues. I don't know many guys that could have juggled that at Kentucky like he has."

Calipari's mixing hasn't hurt overall playing time for the Wildcats' nine regulars, who average 11.1 to 25.8 minutes per game. But players such as Cauley-Stein and Ulis have each logged 30-plus minutes at least once while Lee and Johnson have seen their time decrease.

Johnson isn't concerned because the Wildcats are still winning, which is all that matters.

"When you come here, he's going to put you into position to succeed," he said. "You've just got to embrace it and buy into the team culture."

The Wildcats certainly had to buy into teamwork during Saturday night's tense 68-66 Midwest region-clinching victory over Notre Dame, a game that Calipari admittedly tried "every combination I could" to stay in a contest they trailed by six points with just over six minutes remaining.

The coach continually shuffled players in and out down the stretch and got results on both ends as Kentucky made its last nine shots along with several crucial defensive stops to remain unbeaten. Nobody talked about minutes afterward, just that every hand on deck participated.

It's been that way all season, in any combination.

"Being on a team like this where we're winning, making history and sharing, there's nothing like this," Booker said. "I'm enjoying the moment."

## AP study projects average MLB salary tops \$4M

NEW YORK (AP)—Even before the first pitch of the 2015 season is thrown, an eye-popping baseball record will be set.

The average salary when opening-day rosters are finalized Sunday will break the \$4 million benchmark for the first time, according to a study of all major league contracts by The Associated Press. Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw tops players at \$31 million and Los Angeles projects to open the season with a payroll at about \$270 million, easily a record.

"We're enjoying a tremendously bountiful season in baseball," said Toronto pitcher R.A. Dickey, the 2012 NL Cy Young Award winner with the New York Mets.

Fueled by the largest two-year growth in more than a decade, the average salary projects to be about \$4.25 million, according to the AP study, with the final figure depending on

how many players are put on the disabled list before the first pitch is thrown. That is up from \$3.95 million on the first day of last season and \$3.65 million when 2013 began.

"MLB's revenues have grown in recent years, with the increase in national and local broadcast rights fees being a primary contributor," said Dan Halem, MLB's chief legal officer. "It is expected that player compensation will increase as club revenues increase."

Baseball's average was approximately \$50,000 in 1976, the last year before free agency. Back then, many players took offseason jobs to pay their bills.

Now almost all of them do their heavy lifting in gyms, not warehouses.

In a \$9 billion industry propelled by ballpark luxury suites and premium tickets, regional sports networks and streaming video, more than half the major leaguers are millionaires.

The average broke the \$1 million mark in 1992, topped \$2

million in 2001 and reached \$3 million in 2008.

By comparison, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers has risen slightly less than four-fold since the first class of free agents started negotiations in November 1976. And the average U.S. wage in 2013, the latest figure available, was \$44,888, according to the Social Security Administration, up 1.28 percent from 2012.

"It isn't just the TV deals," union head Tony Clark wrote in an email to the AP. "From the parity on the field to the fan support & business off it (including the national TV contracts), the industry has never been healthier."

Last year, the Dodgers opened at \$234 million and ended the New York Yankees' 15-year streak as baseball's biggest spenders. Still seeking their first World Series title since 1988, Los Angeles is No. 1 by a huge margin. The Yankees project to be second at about \$215

### Baseball salaries hit record high

The average salary of opening-day rosters will break the \$4 million barrier for the first time in baseball history.

2015 payroll by team (in millions)

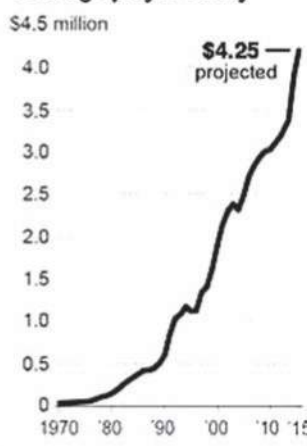
TOP FIVE	
Dodgers	\$272.8
Yankees	219.3
Red Sox	187.4
Tigers	173.8
Giants	172.7

BOTTOM FIVE	
Marlins	68.5
Astros	70.9
Rays	76.1
Athletics	86.1
Indians	86.1

Figures based on March 31 rosters

SOURCE: Major League Baseball Players Association

Average player salary



Graphic shows average salaries in Major League Baseball from 1970-2015 and top and bottom five 2015 payrolls by team.

million, followed by Boston at around \$185 million.

Detroit is fourth at roughly \$170 million—about \$100 million less than the Dodgers. Coming off its third World Series title in five years, San Francisco is fifth, about \$1 million behind the Tigers.

The low rollers are led by Miami (about \$65 million),

with Houston a few million dollars higher. The large-market Mets are right around \$100 million, a mark they haven't reached since 2011.

"The industry is doing very well," Yankees outfielder Carlos Beltran said. "The owners are making a lot of money and the salaries for the players are going up."

Following Kershaw are Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander (\$28 million), Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke (\$27 million) and injured Angels outfielder Josh Hamilton (\$25.4 million). Hamilton has a lengthy history of drug and alcohol abuse, and has been suspended in the past.

The AP's figures include salaries and prorated shares of signing bonuses and other guaranteed income for players on active rosters, disabled lists and the restricted list. For some players, parts of deferred money are discounted to reflect current values.

Payroll numbers factor in adjustments for cash transactions in trades, signing bonuses that are the responsibility of the club agreeing to the contract, option buyouts, and termination pay for released players. San Diego is receiving \$18 million from the Dodgers to cover most of Matt Kemp's salary, and the Marlins are getting about \$12.68 million from Los Angeles as part of the seven-player trade that sent Dan Haren to Miami.



# Blue Haus, LBT Appraisal win debuts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Blue Haus and LBT Appraisal prevailed in their opening games in the Masters division of the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League.

In the division's opening match last March 21 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, Blue Haus defeated Auto Motion, 90-70, while in last Saturday's pairing, LBT Appraisal downed Armatech, 80-64. Copy of the scoresheets of the first two matches in the Masters division were only made available last Tuesday night.

Blue Haus played better in the second half to thwart Auto Motion and walk away with the double-digit winning margin.

Ahead by only three after the first half, 42-39, Edsel Mendoza, Junar Guiab, and Tony Diaz joined forces in the third period and lifted Blue Haus to a 66-54 advantage. The trio combined for 20 of Blue Haus' 25 points in the third canto.

Blue Haus kept its safe distance in the fourth frame with Mendoza and Guiab this time teaming up with big man Edwin Santos in giving their team the advantage in the paint. Santos dropped 6 of his 7 points in the



Blue Haus' Edsel Mendoza pulls up for a jumper in front of Auto Motion's Resty Joson, left, and Andy Viola, during the third quarter of their game in the UFO Masters caging last March 21 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

fourth quarter.

Guiab went on to top-score for Blue Haus with his 18 points, while Diaz and Mendoza also finished in twin digits with 17 and 15, respectively.

Resty Joson paced Auto Motion, firing 15, while Miso Usi

chipped in 14.

In last weekend's match, LBT saved the best for last to steal the victory from Armatech.

LBT faced a 46-51 deficit at the end of the third, but fought back in the final canto after out-gunning Armatech, 34-13.

Randy Mungcal, Jun Alipio, Alex Ocampo, Jun Tabora, and Ed Pangelinan worked together in the fourth quarter as they scored at least 4 points apiece in the big turnaround. Armatech collapsed in the fourth after making only five field goals. Only Martin Moreno and Fer-

die Tobias scored more than one basket for Armatech in the final period.

Meanwhile, Armatech triumphed in the U20 division match last Saturday after out-classing Blue Haus, 72-51.

**Blue Haus 90**—Guaib 18, Diaz 17, Mendoza 15, F. Pala-

cios 8, Santos 7, Patawaran 5, Fernandez 3, Buenabajo 2.

**Auto Motion 80**—Joson 15, Usi 14, Galulu 12, Sison 10, Abaygar 6, Mateo 6, Yalung 4, Viola 2, Balgos 2, Montes 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-15, 42-39, 66-54, 90-80.

## May 1 deadline for AsPac regionals set

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

The 2015 Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior and Big league regional tournament organizing committee has set a May 1 deadline for other member countries to confirm their participation in this year's edition of the annual event, which Saipan will be hosting from June 26 to July 5.

Organizing committee secretary-treasurer Lynn Duenas said, during yesterday's meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room, that they would need the final number of competing teams to finalize the accommodation of each delegation and at the same time organize the game schedule of each division.

"We need to know the final number of teams since the number of hotel rooms that we're going to reserve depend on them. We need to know if we're going to secure more rooms for the team and other

members of their delegation," said Duenas.

Duenas added they already chose Mango Resort in Kobleville to house majority of the delegation and made the initial deposit of \$25,000.

The committee is still looking into and waiting for quotations from other hotels like Aquarius, World Resort, Chalan Kanoa Beach Club, Century Hotel, and Sun Palace.

Twenty teams from 11 countries have so far confirmed their participation to the tournament with host CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines competing in all three divisions.

Hong Kong and Indonesia are joining the Junior and Senior leagues, while Chinese-Taipei will be sending teams to the Junior and Big leagues. Australia and Vietnam will field Junior league teams, and New Zealand and Saudi Arabia are joining the Senior

division.

India already has a Big league team but according to Duenas, her contact at the Indian Little League said in an email that they plan to compete in all three divisions.

"I really need to verify this information since it would be hard for the Indian delegation to pay a lot of money and later their U.S. visa waiver applications may be denied," said Duenas.

Citizens of India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam are required to have visas when entering the U.S. or its territories.

In 2008, the then CNMI district administrator James Ada signed a waiver form at the Office of the Attorney General to exempt the entire delegations from Indonesia and the Philippines during the initial implementation of the new immigration rules in the Commonwealth.

## TEACHERS

From Page 28

in playing volleyball, Kroger believes he relayed the main focus of the program.

"They understood that the games have lots of variations. They could use these variations to make the game more exciting and fun to the kids. Not always the usual set-spike plays," said Kroger.

He added that he even taught one-on-one and two-on-two plays in small courts. "There must be player movement and enough ball contact, remember you are allowed three touches.

Don't get used to standing and waiting."

Kroger, who is also a professor at Kiel University's Institute of Sports Science in Germany, will next visit Beijing for his Ball School Foundation that promotes different ball sports to kids.

Vanuatu, Nauru, the Solomon Islands, and the CNMI are the island nations he visited in Oceania.

His instructional manual that he developed for FIVB has also been translated to different languages like Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish, Hungarian, Polish, and Portuguese.

## DIVISION

From Page 28

No. 1 spot in its division after improving to a 7-0-0 win-draw-loss record.

In the other boys U15 division match last Friday, MP United also shut down Tan Holdings 2, 5-0, to retain the second spot in the team standings.

MP United, which now was a 6-0-1 mark, drew one goal each from Go Sekiguchi, Edwin Kim, Sunjoon Tenorio, Grant Eichenberger, and Cody Leon.

### GIRLS U15 Matansa 12, MP United 0

Matansa posted the most lopsided win in Week 7 after routing

MP United last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Angelica Sally did most of the damage in Matansa' victory, as she drilled seven goals. Lyka Sally and Bernadette Horey added two goals apiece, while Pinyarat Shankweiler nailed one.

Matansa beat Shirley's in the tiebreak for first place, as the former has more goals scored after seven games, 23-20. The two teams hold similar 5-2-0 records.

### Shirley's 5, Tan Holdings 0

Shirley's bagged its fifth win after blanking Tan Holdings.

Diana Maniacop and Mia

## 10 earn Polar Bear status

Ten made the grade in Saipan Swim Club's 2nd Annual Saipan Polar Bear Swim.

Polar Bear took place this winter mimicking the Dolphin Club's program that takes place in the frigid San Francisco Bay. SSC president Emma Perez introduced this lap swim in December 2013 based on her participation in the San Francisco Bay swims. SSC masters logged their swims in the 50-meter Kan Pacific Swimming Pool as well as the lagoon. The goal was to swim 40 miles



over the three month period from Dec. 21, the first day of winter, until March 21, the first day of spring. Swimmers over the age of 60 needed to only swim 20 miles.

This year, coach Gary De Guzman was the first to reach Polar Bear status and logged in 89 miles, beating Suzy Kindel's record of 81.25 miles last season. Carol Lynn Pierce again logged in the second highest amount of miles with 76.75 miles, surpassing her 68.75 miles last year. Pierce accomplished this despite

with its 1-0-6 card.

### CO-ED U12 Kanoa 1, Tan Holdings 0

Kanoa was victorious in the co-ed U12 division after nosing out Tan Holdings.

Merrick Tovers hit the lone goal in the match, helping Kanoa gain a 2-3-1 record for second place in the team standings. Tan Holdings dropped to fourth place in the five-team field with its 1-1-4 record.

### Paire 5, Matansa 1

In the other co-ed U12 match, Paire cruised past Matansa.

Kaden Church and Maui Johnson notched two goals each for Paire, which kept the No. 3 spot in the team standings with

spending the first month of the Polar Bear Swim practicing with SSC Dolphins for their synchronized swimming performance in January.

Other Dolphins who also met the 40 mile goal were Nami Kadokura (55.75 miles for third place) Kaoru Takahashi (46.75), the 63-year-old Suzy Kindel (45.25), and Atsuko Sato (44.12 miles)

Also achieving Polar Bear status were Aya Braxton (53.25 miles) and Tomomi Sato (42.12 miles) and 60-and-above's Joshua Berger (54.5 miles) and Jill Derickson (24.50 miles). Derickson's 92-year-old moth-

er, Mina Neidrauer, again participated in the Polar Bear by walking a total of 10 miles around the pool, while Ayumi Kaga and Mamiko Berger swam 37.12 and 19.50 miles, respectively.

### Escape from Managaha sign-up

Meanwhile, pre-registration for this month's Escape from Managaha is required.

Tomorrow is the deadline for registration and entrance fee is \$20 (inclusive of shirt finisher).

The club's Escape from Managaha will be held on April 11. (Saipan Tribune)

## YOUNG

From Page 28

ers—12-year-old Jin Ju Thompson, 15-year-old Wynn Bryant Brillo, and 10-year-old Rintaro Miyawaki—overcame the treacherous course in 4:17:18. The mixed relay team of Tamio Nishikido, Mark Isip, and Tiffany Lin finished third (5:01:30).

The father-son tandem of Ben and Benjamin Babauta came in at fourth in the men's relay (5:21:51), while the triumvirate of Charles Cepeda, Kanae Quinn, and Tina Goodwin was fourth in the mixed (5:01:30), and Katie Norman, James Abuy, and Rommel Bartolo (5:33:41) rounded out the field.



# 2015 Taiga Kids Triathlon

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Rintaro Miyawaki runs barefoot on his way to completing the first lap of the run race.



Swimmers rush to the course during the swim leg of the 2015 Taiga Kids Triathlon held late last month at the American Memorial Park grounds.



A volunteer gives a cup of water to Akira Kadokura on his way to the run course.



Taiga Sato is a few steps away from finishing the race.



Cojiro Kaga heads to the finish line.



Rei Sekiguchi heads for the second lap of the run leg.



Conatsu Kaga, left, and Jin Ju Thompson run along the shore for the second lap of the swim leg.



Risa Sekiguchi and Susan Villagomez near the bike-run transition area, while Ayaka Sato slows down in the run leg.



Kaden Church, left, and Richard Villagomez make their turn for the second lap of the bike course.



Ayaka Sato puts on her socks in preparation for the bike leg.





**Spurs  
pull away  
from Heat for  
95-81 win**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Blue Haus,  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**28** THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015

## Young guns top XTERRA relay



**Akimaru**



**Eda**



**Castro**

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three teenagers proved that they too could conquer and survive the same XTERRA Saipan Championship course the pros have gone through during last Saturday's rain-soaked event.

The three-member men's team of Kento Akimaru, Erico Castro, and Seiya Eda swam, rode, and ran their way through the treacherous XTERRA Saipan course, made more challenging by the continuous morning rain, with a combined time of 3:25:03 to become the top overall finisher in the relay.

Saipan Swim Club standout Akimaru, 14, overcame the rough 1.5-kilometer swim in 17:16, the third best time behind eventual champion Ben Allen of Australia (15:57) and South African Bradley Weiss (17:10).

The 16-year-old Castro then hopped on his bike and pedaled through the 30K rollercoaster-like course in 1:18:54, finishing 14th overall in the field that had 13 pros. Eda, 17, then took on the challenging 12K muddy and slippery trail run in 1:08:40 or 15th overall.

This was the fourth time that Akimaru and Castro teamed up



for XTERRA Saipan. Goshi Sato was their runner in the three previous editions, but the Japanese chose to run the entire Taga-

treacherous XTERRA Saipan course last March 22 so he skipped XTERRA. To find a new teammate, Kento's mother, Ayaka, talked to Sakiko Eda and asked her if she could run the trail leg of the race. Sakiko declined since she's a roadrunner and not used to the trails, but recommended her son, Seiya, to join the team.

The younger Eda, the Saipan Southern High School junior, is also a known roadrunner after dominating a number of races on the island, but accepted the challenge.

"I'm used to running on the road and trail running is something new for me. You really have to be very careful out there since the rocks are sharp. This was my first time and I enjoyed it," said Eda.

A number of youngsters also

raced in the relay competition.

Fourteen-year-old Christian Villacrusis teamed up with Fred Remillosa and Ricardo Antonio to become the second-best men's team (4:04:08), while the trio of Ricky Castro, Cesar Fortaleza, and Dencio Bautista came in at third (4:25:44).

Seventeen-year-old Victoria

Chentsova anchored her mixed relay team, composed of biker Butch Sublemente and runner Enrique Evangelista, on top of the podium with a time of 4:04:08.

Another trio of under-15 rac-

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## Division leaders roll past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The pacesetters in the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League eased their way to victories in Week 7.

In the boys U15 division, the streaking Tan Holdings Football Club 1 crushed Matansa FC, 7-0, last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Emmanuel Aniana was unstoppable in Tan Holdings 1's demolition of Matansa, as he knocked in three goals. Louie Calayag, Anthony Fruit,

Mark Esalan, and Jonathan Capayas contributed one goal apiece for Tan Holdings, which kept the



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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings FC 1 and MP United players chase the ball during their boys U15 game in the first round of the NMIFA youth league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Tan Holdings 1 and MP United beat Matansa and Tan Holdings 2, respectively last Friday, while the Saturday match between Paire and Kanoa was rescheduled due to rain.

## Teachers can now conduct proper volleyball training

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

International Federation of Volleyball instructor Dr. Christian Kroger said the teachers who attended his six-day training course are now equipped with the right knowledge that they can pass on to their students.

Kroger, who was on island

for almost a week, said he has achieved his goal of teaching the three basic elements of his program to the participants.

The program's main objective is to teach the foundation of the sport that would aid the participants on the proper way of playing volleyball.



"All participants have achieved the main focus of the program. That is ball coordination, development of skills, and different types of games that the kids would love to do," said Kroger, who left Saipan last Thursday.

He added that he had a lot of fun in conducting the training

course, which is part of FIVB's Volleyball Cooperation Program.

"The interest was there from all the participants. There is interaction and high engagement from them. They are all eager to learn and 80 percent of them passed the course," said Kroger, who handed out 18 certificates.

"They learned the methodical approach enough to increase the abilities and skills of their students who are interested to learn volleyball."

Though one-third of those who passed have no experience

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JON PEREZ

Dr. Christian Kroger, left, gives out instructions to the participants in one of the practical sessions of his six-day teachers training course last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

